

# What is it like to be me?

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## Abstract

No matter how many words/gestures one uses to describe his/her qualia, I won't be able to know what it was like for him/her to experience his/her qualia. I know what it was like for me to experience my qualia, simply because I can remember what it was like for me to experience my qualia.

So, to me, there is no evidence that anyone else can experience his/her qualia.

"What is it to be a bat?" When I imagine what it is like to be a bat, I'm actually imagining that I am the bat. Or in other words, I'm imagining that the bat is me.

When I imagine that a bat is me, I'm actually imagining that a homunculus is sitting inside the bat's body. What does this mean? What is that homunculus? That homunculus is a "clone" of me! That homunculus is another "me"!

So, when I imagine that a bat is me, I'm actually imagining that I am sitting inside the bat's body.

So, the question "What is it like to be a bat?" is actually equivalent to the question "What is it like to be me?" or the question "If I sit inside a bat's body (and control/feel the bat's body) as the bat itself, what is it like to be me (under that situation)?".

The question "What is it like to be me?" is actually equivalent to the question "If I sit inside a human's body (and control/feel the human's body) as the human himself, what is it like to be me (under that situation)?" or the question "If I sit inside my body (and control/feel my body) as myself, what is it like to be me (under that situation)?".

## Body

Actually, I have a different physical body at every moment, so I become a different person at every moment. I know what it is like to be the current me. I can remember what it was like to be me yesterday. But I don't know what it will be like to be me tomorrow.

I can imagine what it will be like to be me tomorrow.

I can imagine what it will be like to be me tomorrow -- if I win the Nobel prize tomorrow.

I can imagine what it will be like to be me tomorrow -- if I lost my wallet tomorrow.

Can I imagine what it is like for someone to win the Nobel prize? I can't imagine what it is like for someone else to win the Nobel prize. I can only imagine what it is like for me to win the Nobel prize.

I can imagine what it is like for the current me to win the Nobel prize.

I can imagine what it is like for the 18-years-old me to win the Nobel prize.

Can I imagine what it is like for someone to swim? I can't imagine what it is like for someone else to swim. I can only imagine what it is like for me to swim. Because I can remember what it was like for me to swim.

Can I imagine what it is like for someone to fly? I can't imagine what it is like for someone else to fly. I can only imagine what it is like for me to fly.

Can I imagine what it is like for someone to swim like a frog? I can't imagine what it is like for someone else to swim like a frog. I can only imagine what it is like for me to swim like a frog. (Because I can remember what it was like for me to swim like a frog.) I can't imagine what it is like for a frog to swim like a frog.

Can I imagine what it is like for someone to fly like a bat? I can't imagine what it is like for someone else to fly like a bat. I can only imagine what it is like for me to fly like a bat. I can't imagine what it is like for a bat to fly like a bat.

When I read someone else' article regarding what it was like for him to win the Nobel prize, can I imagine what it was like for him to win the Nobel prize? No. I can only imagine what it is like for me to win the Nobel prize.

If he said that "It felt like winning a lottery!", and if I have never won a lottery before, then I will not be able to understand his words.

If I have won a lottery before, then I know what it was like for me to win a lottery. I don't know what it was like for him to win a lottery.

Even if I believe that winning the Nobel prize is like winning a lottery, I still don't know what it was like for him to win a lottery. I will never know what it was like for him to win a lottery. So, I will never know what it was like for him to win the Nobel prize.

No matter how many details he gave in his article, I won't be able to know what it was like for him to win the Nobel prize.

No matter how many words/gestures one uses to describe his/her qualia, I won't be able to know what it was like for him/her to experience his/her qualia. I know what it was like for me to experience my qualia, simply because I can remember what it was like for me to experience my qualia.

So, to me, there is no evidence that anyone else can experience his/her qualia.

So, one can't prove to others that he/she can experience his/her qualia. One can't prove to others that he/she can experience his/her qualia by using any words/gestures.

"What is it like to be a bat? [1]" When I imagine what it is like to be a bat, I'm actually imagining that I am the bat. Or in other words, I'm imagining that the bat is me.

When I imagine that a bat is me, I'm actually imagining that a homunculus is sitting inside the bat's body. What does this mean? What is that homunculus? That homunculus is a "clone" of me! That homunculus is another "me"! [2]

So, when I imagine that a bat is me, I'm actually imagining that I am sitting inside the bat's body.

So, the question "What is it like to be a bat?" is actually equivalent to the question "What is it like to be me?" or the question "If I sit inside a bat's body (and control/feel the bat's body) as the bat *itself*, what is it like to be me (under that situation)?".

The question "What is it like to be me?" is actually equivalent to the question "If I sit inside a human's body (and control/feel the human's body) as the human *himself*, what is it like to be me (under that situation)?" or the question "If I sit inside my body (and control/feel my body) as *myself*, what is it like to be me (under that situation)?".

I will never know what it is *actually* like to be a bat. I can only imagine what it is like to be a bat – if I am the bat. But I will never actually *be* the bat, so I will never know what it is actually like to be the bat.

I will never know what it is *actually* like to be someone else. I can only imagine what it is like to be someone else – if I am that guy. But I will never actually *be* that guy, so I will never know what it is actually like to be that guy.

## References

- [1] Nagel T. What is it like to be a bat?[J]. *The philosophical review*, 1974, 83(4): 435-450.
- [2] Yu, X. (2021, May 22). Cosmos is a (fatalistic) state machine: Objective theory (cosmos, objective reality, scientific image) vs. Subjective theory (consciousness, subjective reality, manifest image). <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/24pmu>