

Exercises: Chapter 26

Integral and non-integral references

Convert the following integral references into non-integral references.

1. Routine thinkers

We are all conventional thinkers trapped by our ideas, intuitions and routine patterns of thought. As John Maynard Keynes (1936) put it, 'The difficulty lies not in the new ideas, but in escaping from the old ones' (p. viii). We struggle to accept climate change, because we are trapped by a certain idea of progress, which we can't let go even though it has turned against us.

Answer:

We are all conventional thinkers trapped by our ideas, intuitions and routine patterns of thought. 'The difficulty lies not in the new ideas, but in escaping from the old ones' (Keynes, 1936, p. viii). We struggle to accept climate change, because we are trapped by a certain idea of progress, which we can't let go even though it has turned against us.

2. The Stone Age mind

As Cosmides and Tooby (1997) point out, over millions of years we have adapted to our environment to become routine, unreflective thinkers. For much of our existence our survival has depended on rules and patterns of behaviour well-tested by the thousands of generations before us. Our neural circuits have been designed by natural selection to solve the problems our ancestors faced. They are programmed for survival, not to seek out truth: 'our modern skulls house a stone age mind' (p. 14).

Answer:

Over millions of years we have adapted to our environment to become routine, unreflective thinkers. For much of our existence our survival has depended on rules and patterns of behaviour well-tested by the thousands of generations before us. Our neural circuits have been designed by natural selection to solve the problems our ancestors faced: 'our modern skulls house a stone age mind' (Cosmides and Tooby, 1997, p. 14). They are programmed for survival, not to seek out truth.

3. Evolved problem-solvers

When we are born we are already evolved problem-solvers, equipped with crib sheets. As Cosmides and Tooby (1997, p.11) argue, we come to a problem already 'knowing' a lot about it. For example, a newborn's brain has response systems that 'expect' faces to be present in the environment. Johnson and Morton (1991) found that babies less than 10 minutes old turn their eyes and head in response to face-like patterns, but not to scrambled versions of the same pattern with identical spatial frequencies.

Answer:

When we are born we are already evolved problem-solvers, equipped with crib sheets. We come to a problem already 'knowing' a lot about it (Cosmides and Tooby, 1997, p.11). For example, a newborn's brain has response systems that 'expect' faces to be present in the environment. Babies less than 10 minutes old turn their eyes and head in response to face-like patterns, but not to scrambled versions of the same pattern with identical spatial frequencies (Johnson and Morton, 1991).