

Alice Through the Looking Glass
by
Lewis Carroll
CHAPTER 6: Humpty Dumpty

My name is Alice, but --'

'It's a stupid name enough!' Humpty Dumpty interrupted impatiently. 'What does it mean?'

'Must a name mean something?' Alice asked doubtfully.

'Of course it must,' Humpty Dumpty said with a short laugh: 'my name means the shape I am -- and a good handsome shape it is, too. With a name like yours, you might be any shape, almost.'

'But "glory" doesn't mean "a nice knock-down argument",' Alice objected.

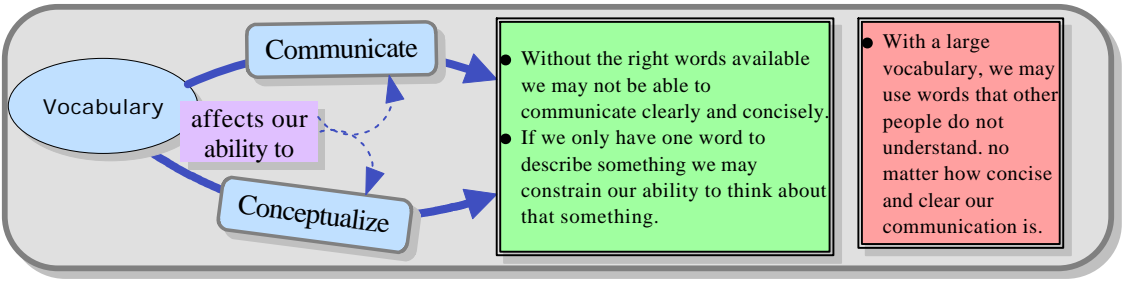
'When I use a word,' Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, 'it means just what I choose it to mean -- neither more nor less.'

'The question is,' said Alice, 'whether you can make words mean so many different things.'

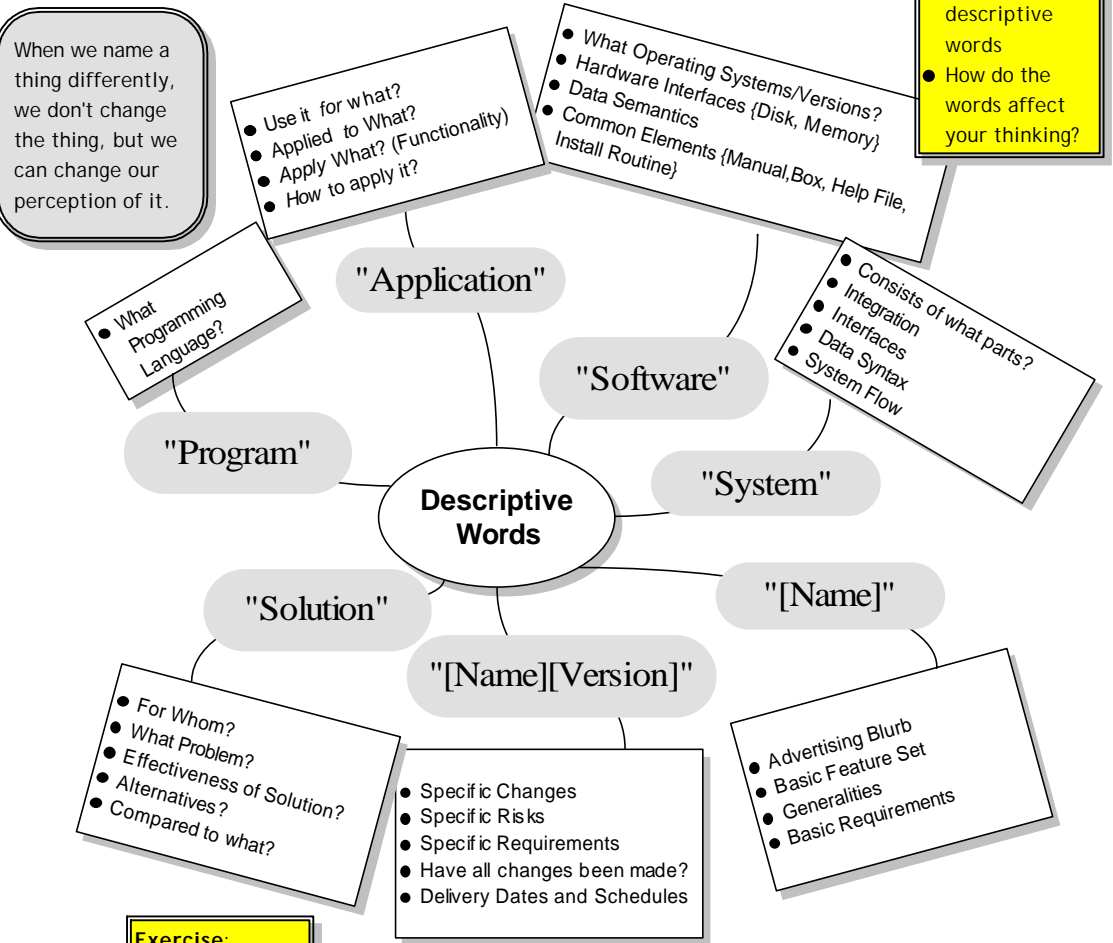
'The question is,' said Humpty Dumpty, 'which is to be master -- that's all.'

Alice was too much puzzled to say anything; so after a minute Humpty Dumpty began again. 'They've a temper, some of them -- particularly verbs: they're the proudest -- adjectives you can do anything with, but not verbs -- however, I can manage the whole lot of them!' **Impenetrability!** That's what I say!

"Fantastic piece of software with just a few minor flaws": are you working hard to stress the software yet?



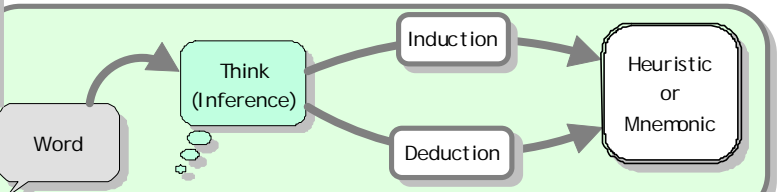
What words can be used to describe the "Application Under Test", and how do those words affect your thinking?



Exercise:

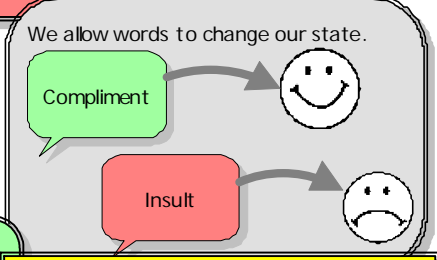
- Identify other descriptive words
- How do the words affect your thinking?

Exercise: Generate your own Heuristics or Mnemonic Lists



"Festering pile of bad code": are you positively motivated to test it yet?

Deductive Inference: If (Premise) then (Conclusion)
Inductive Inference: If (Premise) then possibly { Conclusion1, Conclusion2, ... }



Exercise: Use emotive words in your description:

- Do you feel differently about the thing?
- How does this state affect your testing?

Extensional Devices: distinguish between the word and the thing:

- Indexing:** System_{v1.1} ≠ System_{v1.2}
- Dating:** System_{v1.1} @07 February 2005
- Etc.:** not all the aspects
- Quotes:** 'Software Testing' is not a definition
- Hyphens:** Paying-Customer-Usability-Testing is different from Internal-Usability-Testing
ref: Alfred Korzybski, "The Role of Language in the Perceptual Processes"