

Consciousness the hard problem

*when our cognitive systems [process] **visual or auditory information**, we have visual or auditory **experience** - the **quality** of deep blue or the sensation of middle C? How can we explain why there is **something it is like** to entertain a mental image or to experience an emotion?*

So this is about **Qualia**, right?

Part 1

*visual or auditory **experience** - the **quality** of deep blue or the sensation of middle C? . . . why there is **something it is like** to entertain a mental image or to experience an emotion?*

Qualia – limited function
contingent nature
not a **central** problem

*that experience **arises from a physical** basis,*

ie **isn't** itself physical?

*Why should physical processing give rise to a rich **inner** life?*

ie **subjective** not objective

Part 2

*that experience **arises from a physical** basis,
Why should physical processing give rise to
a rich **inner** life?*

Sensory experience **is** physical,
reliable, predictable, **objective**

***Why** is it that . . . ?*

*It seems **objectively unreasonable***

He can't see **why**

Part 3

***Why** is it that . . . ?*

*It seems **objectively unreasonable***

Our mode of perception
and conscious activity generally confers an
evolutionary advantage

Part 1: Importance of Qualia

No *qualia* in

Getting information

Planning

Problem solving

Making something

Communicating

Remembering (unless of perception)

Just in sensory perception

But emotion?

Not a stage in a process (eg vision)

But a state

being angry $\equiv$ **feeling** angry

But emotion?

being sad $\equiv$ **feeling** sad

When strong

But otherwise – an attitude, no quale

Dear Linda,
I am very sorry
to hear . . .

Why, there's Baretti, who is to be tried for his life to-morrow, friends have risen up for him on every side; yet if he should be hanged, none of them will eat a slice of plum-pudding the less.

Sir, that sympathetick feeling goes a very little way in depressing the mind.

Samuel Johnson

But emotion? a state

being angry $\equiv$ **feeling** angry

And easily explicable physically
a surge of chemicals

Alcohol or Adrenaline

Cortisone or cocaine

Qualia

Light waves *register as* Vision

Air waves *register as* Sound

Physical contacts *register as* Touch

Chemicals *register as* Taste, Smell





Sight and
Sound

and
Mating



Qualia – shmalia

no big deal!

(end of **part 1**)

Part 2 Status of Sensory Experience

a physical process

If not, **what?**

And how interacting with matter?

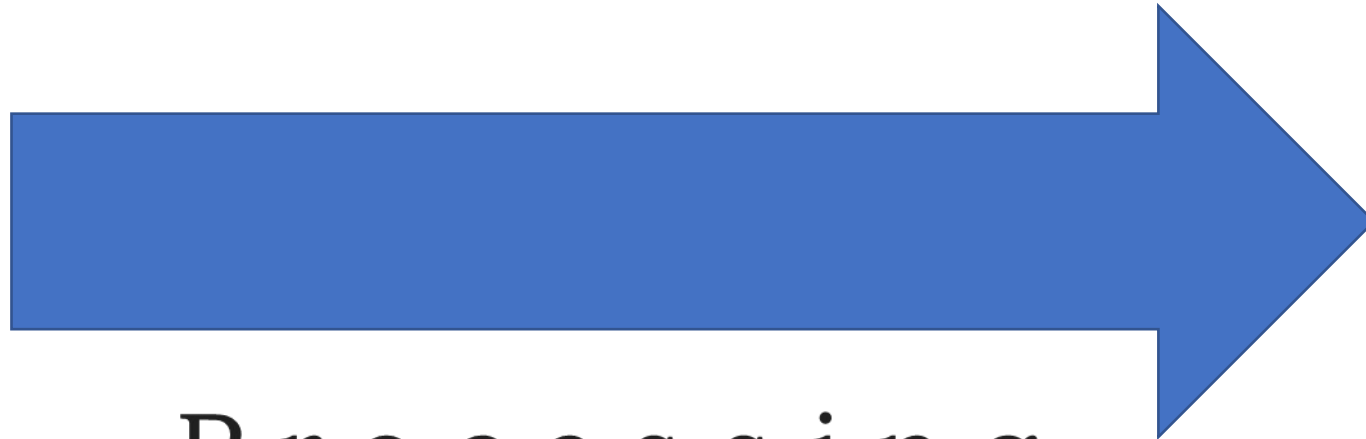
P r o c e s s i n g

Light
waves



vision

Air
waves



sound

P r o c e s s i n g









SYNESTHESIA

0123456789



SYNAESTHESIA

0123456789









(end of **part 2**)

Part 3

***Why** is it that . . . ?*

*It seems **objectively unreasonable***

Our mode of perception
and conscious activity generally confers an
evolutionary advantage

[blimey!]

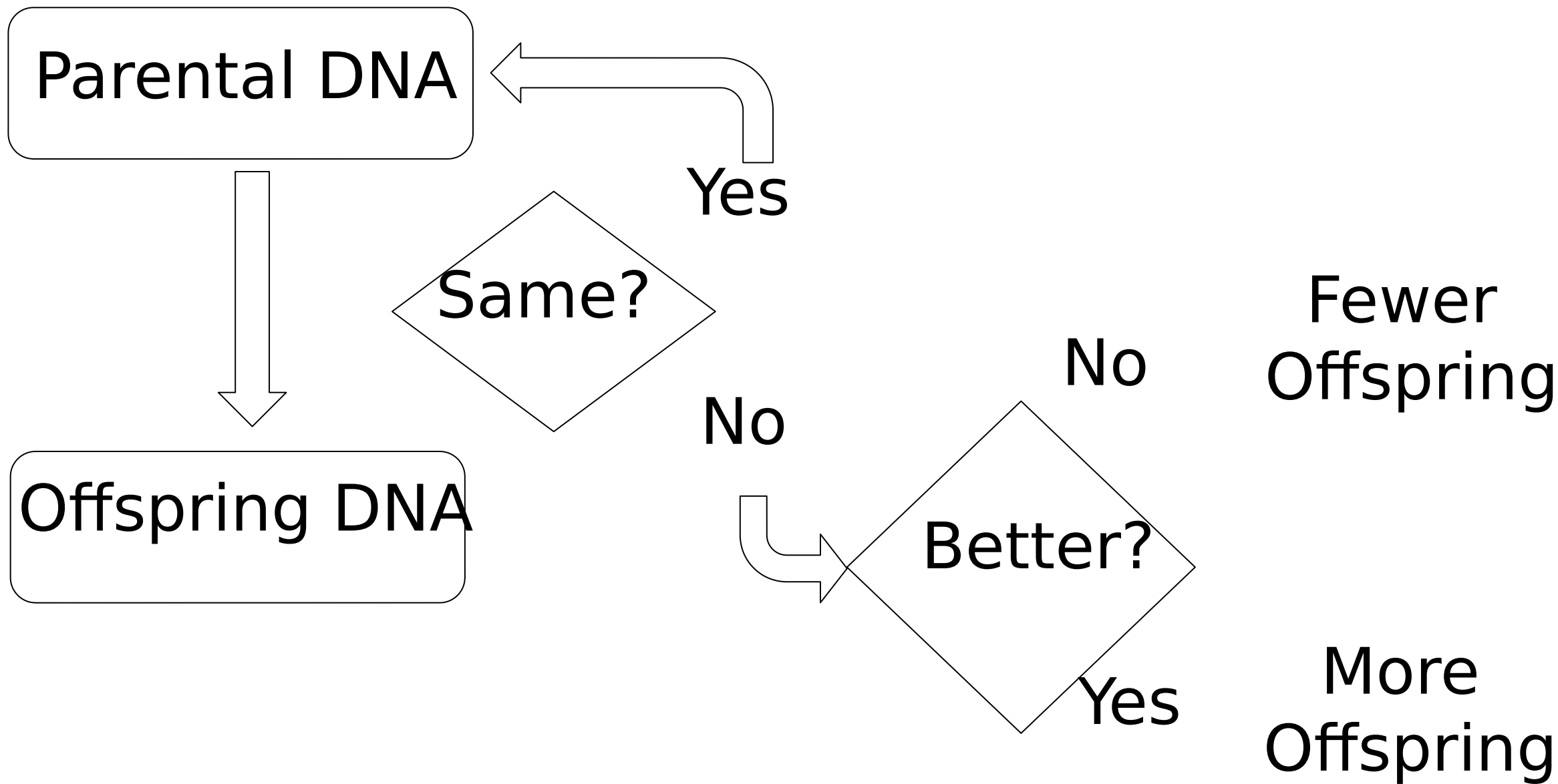


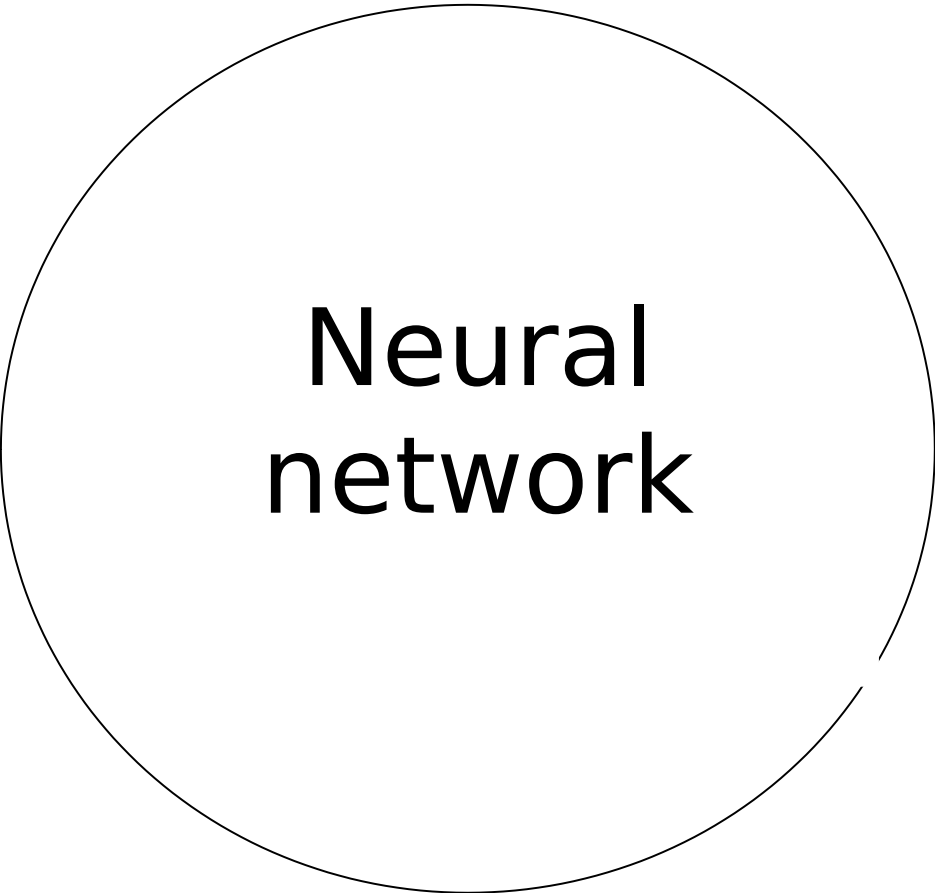
Why?

How come?



What for?





Neural
network

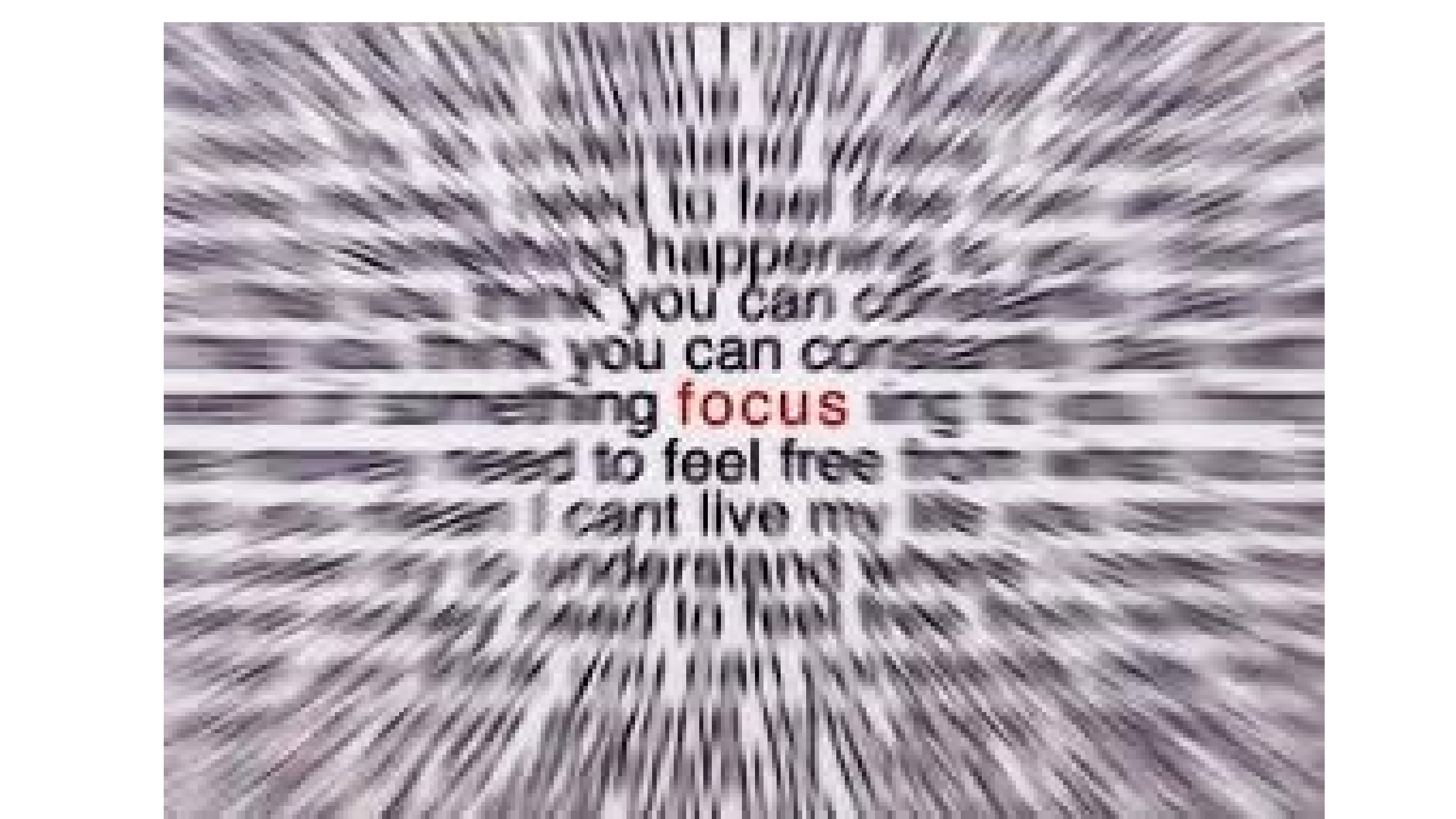
Whenever x, do y again

***Unconscious processing and
response***

Selected focus

on

Edited version



Why would I
want to feel free
if happiness
is what you can
control you can control
everything **focus**
and to feel free
I can't live my life
exploring and
want to feel





take this sequence of precisely one
hundred characters and using only the
english alphabet and space

take this sequence of precisely one
hundred characters and using only the
english alphabet and space

Ignoring case and punctuation,
27 options per place

[illegible]

Books

44.2 million

44.2M

Electronics

10.1M

Home & Kitchen

6.6M

Digital Music

6.0M

Arts, Crafts & Sewing

4.9M

Handmade

4.5M

Industrial & Scientific

4.3M

Automotive Parts & Accessories

4.0M

CDs & Vinyl

3.8M

Tools &
DIY

3.7M

3.7 million

0

5M

10M

15M

20M

25M

30M

35M

40M

45M

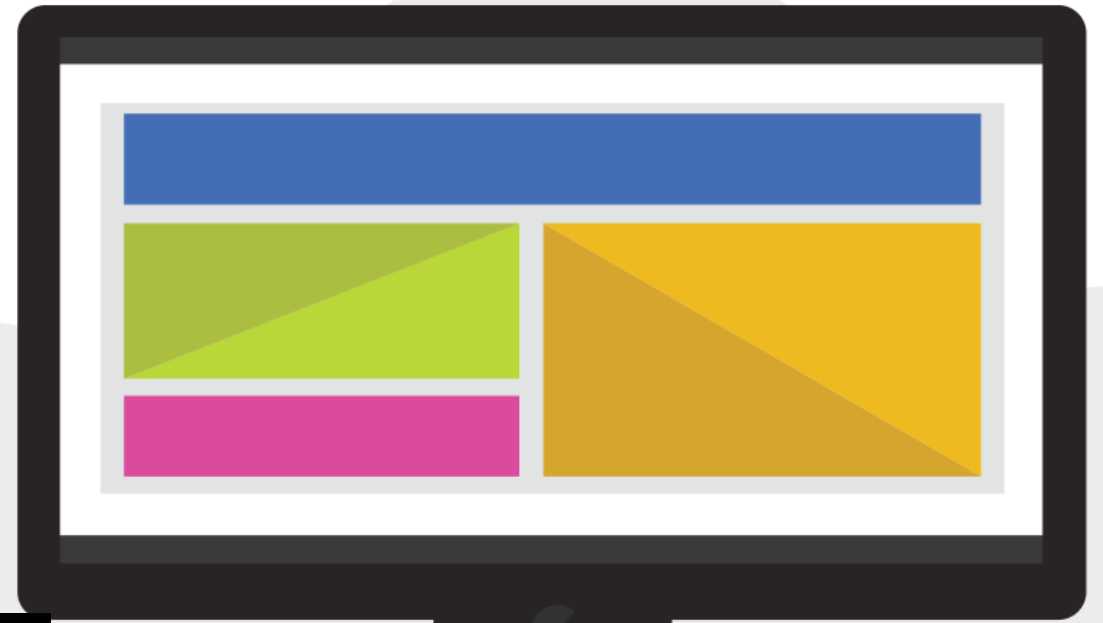


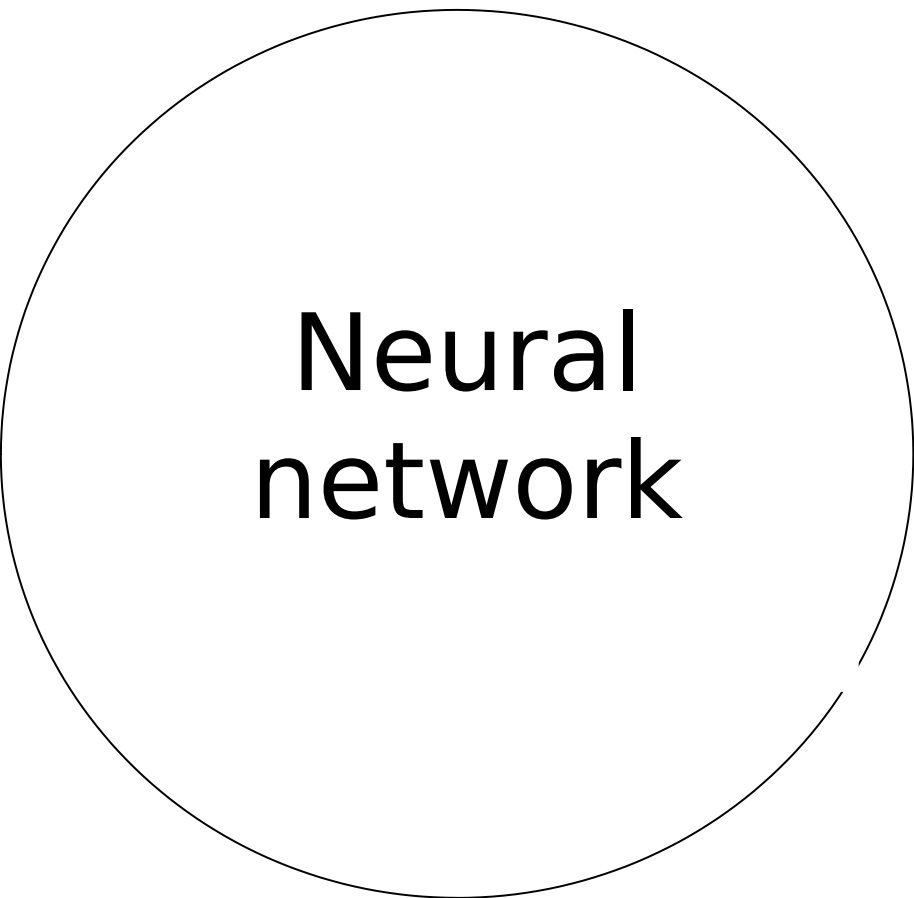
In time ✓
Last time? ✓
Price ✓
Shareable? ✓



Colour x
Insurance x
Packaging x
Shape x
Weight x

User Interfaces

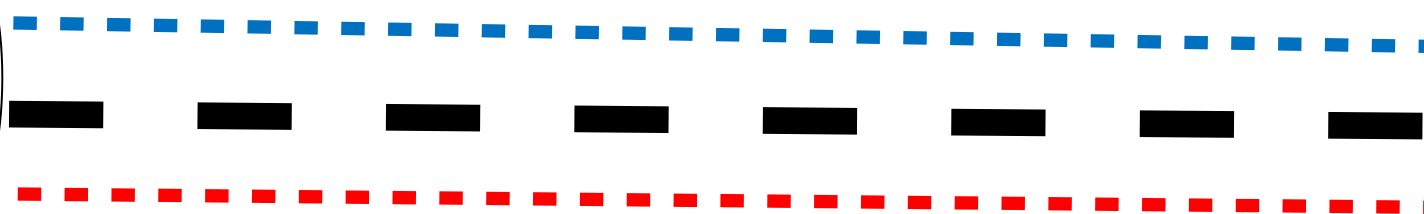




Conscious processing and
response

Consider factors *a, b, c*
and plans *p, q, r*

And ***this*** time . . .



Whenever x, do y again

Unconscious processing and
response

Consciousness -

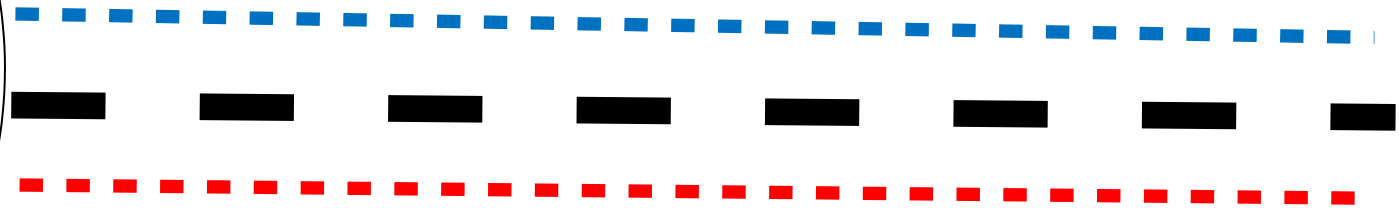
Marvel
not Mystery

Consciousness
the hard problem
i.e?

Conscious processing and response

Consider factors a, b, c
and plans p, q, r
And *this* time . . .

Neural
network



Whenever x, do y again

Unconscious processing and response

H
a
b
i
t

