

Welcome to LessWrong!

We're an online community dedicated to the study of human rationality, the general field of improving our decisions. LessWrong pulls together a variety of material from mathematics, economics, cognitive science, and other disciplines which can all be relevant when considering how we think. We're also interested in technology, the long-term future of humanity, and philosophy.

LessWrong dates back to 2006 when [Eliezer Yudkowsky](#) starting writing about rationality on economist [Robin Hanson's](#) blog [Overcoming Bias](#). In February 2009, those posts were used as the seed material for Less Wrong. Since 2006 we have collected many friends.

The best introduction to the ideas on this website is "The Sequences", a collection of posts that introduce cognitive science, philosophy, and mathematics. An abridged and edited epub version called [Rationality: From AI to Zombies](#) is also available for download. Eliezer is also well known for writing [Harry Potter and the Methods of Rationality](#) (HPMOR), one of the world's most popular Harry Potter fanfictions.

The [Discussion board](#) on LessWrong is active, and includes links to other posts around the internet that we find interesting, as well as user-submitted essays on varying topics. [Main](#) has been closed since mid-2016, and was reserved for posts that were elevated from the discussion forum for their quality. There are still many posts there of high quality but it no longer updates.

If you are new here we like to encourage you to post in the latest [welcome thread](#) to introduce yourself and start a conversation, more instructions are in that thread.

You can find a map below of our [physical meetups](#) around the world. If you are in a city with a meetup, it's a great experience and we love new participants!

If you want to put yourself on the [map](#), we would be delighted if you would join us!

There is active conversation on the [LessWrongers slack](#) and in the [IRC chat room](#). We also have a [Russian slack](#) if you speak Russian.

If you need a place to commit to studying alongside others - our [Study hall](#) is a place to visit.

Several organizations spun off from the community, such as [The Center For Applied Rationality](#) (CFAR), the [Machine Intelligence Research Institute](#) (MIRI), and the [Effective Altruism](#) movement.

Some other notable businesses include [Beeminder](#), [Complice](#), and [Mealsquares](#).

Some blogs of our friends include Scott Alexander's [Slate Star Codex](#), Nate Soares' [MindingOurWay](#), Gwern's [Gwern.net](#) and philosopher [Nick Bostrom](#).

We can't always keep track of all the topics we are interested in. Some of the less mainstream ideas that we entertain include: [Cryonics](#), [Transhumanism](#), [Universal Basic Income](#), [Defeating Death](#), [X-risk](#).

The best part about LessWrong is that although we don't always agree, we find it easy to maintain our charitable and friendly attitude to all. We hope you will join us for some interesting discussions and enjoy your stay!

Currently included, currently in this order:

1. Welcome, intro
2. History
3. Overcomingbias
4. RAZ
5. HPMOR
6. Discussion
7. Main
8. Welcome thread
9. Physical meetups
10. Global users map
11. Slack
12. IRC
13. Russian slack
14. Study hall
15. CFAR
16. MIRI
17. EA
18. Beeminder
19. Complice
20. Mealsquares
21. SSC
22. [MindingOurWay](#)
23. [Gwern.net](#)
24. Nick Bostrom
25. Cryonics
26. Transhumanism
27. Universal Basic income
28. Defeating Death
29. X-risk

30. Concluding paragraph.

Considering a new version

1. Welcome, intro
2. History
3. RAZ, HPMOR
4. Discussion, Main
5. Welcome thread
6. Physical meetups
7. Global users map
8. Slack, IRC
9. CFAR, MIRI, EA
10. SSC, MindingOurWay, Gwern.net
11. Cryonics, Transhumanism, Defeating Death, X-risk
12. Concluding paragraph.

LessWrong has changed significantly over the years. The best introduction to the material on this website is a series of blogposts colloquially called "the sequences". These are written by the original founders of this site, and capture a good chunk of the ideas that were formed in this community. The first post is [here](#).

[Read the Sequences](#)

There's also an abridged and edited epub version available [here](#).

Head to our [about](#) page for more information of our history and the parts that make up lesswrong.

Some prominent organizations are showcased below:

[CFAR](#) [MIRI](#) [FHI](#)

About Less Wrong^{[\[edit\]](#)}

Interested in improving your reasoning and decision-making skills? Then you've come to the right place. We're an online community dedicated to the study of human rationality, the general field of improving our decisions. LessWrong pulls together a variety of material from mathematics, economics, cognitive science, and other disciplines which can all be relevant

when considering how we think. We're also interested in technology, the long-term future of humanity, and philosophy.

To get a quick idea of why rationality is important and how to develop it, try reading [Your Intuitions Are Not Magic](#), [The Cognitive Science of Rationality](#), or [What I've Learned From Less Wrong](#).

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The Less Wrong Community^[edit]

Less Wrong makes heavy use of previously introduced topics for leverage, so you may need to consult the [Concepts](#) and [Jargon](#) pages on the [Less Wrong Wiki](#). You can also do keyword searches of past posts using the search tool near the top right corner of every page.

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Where do I begin?

If you want to know more about Less Wrong, try the [Less Wrong FAQ](#). Otherwise, here's a selection of other posts from the extensive Less Wrong [archives](#) that might appeal to you:

- Like thinking about politics? Try [A Fable of Science and Politics](#).
- Enjoy thought experiments? [Here's a good one](#) about the nature of intention.
- Want to teach yourself something? We've compiled [a list of the best textbooks on every subject](#). Try [spaced repetition](#) for helping you remember what you read ([or don't](#)).
- Not sure if rational thinking has practical applications? Read Less Wrong on [driving](#) or [buying a house](#).
- Want to improve your effectiveness? [Humans are not automatically strategic](#), so learning to think [more strategically](#) can give you a leg up.
- Looking for greater purpose or meaning in life? Read a Less Wrong user's [case](#) for [effective altruism](#).
- Are you a busy intellectual? Consider [taking time to introspect](#) on whether you're working towards something worth achieving, and how you could operate more effectively.
- Want to make sure your study of biases doesn't backfire? Read how [knowing about biases can hurt people](#).

And some slightly meatier stuff:

- [Bayes' Theorem Illustrated](#)
- [Hindsight Devalues Science](#)
- [How an Algorithm Feels from the Inside](#)
- [Make Your Training Useful](#)

- [Scholarship: How to Do It Efficiently](#)
- [Attention Control Is Critical for Changing/Increasing/Altering Motivation](#)
- [That Alien Message](#)
- Decision Theories: A Semi-Formal Analysis parts [0](#), [1](#), [2](#), and [3](#)