

## Reading Assignment 5: Hume and Frege on Abstract Ideas

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### REQUIRED READINGS

- Section 1.1.7 of Hume 2003.
- Pages 67-68 of Shapiro 2000.

### QUESTIONS

1. Explain in your own words what Hume might mean when he claims, ``tis contest, that no object can appear to the senses; or in other words, that no impression can become present to the mind, without being determined in its degrees both of quantity and quality."
2. Explain Frege's criticism that abstract units cannot be counted.

### REFERENCES

- [1] D. Hume. *A Treatise of Human Nature*. Courier Dover Publications, 2003.
- [2] S. Shapiro. *Thinking about mathematics: The philosophy of mathematics*. Oxford University Press, 2000.