



Beyond the Possible

Workbook 1 of 5

Advanced English Through Thought Experiments.

What Makes Us Human?

The **Beyond the Possible** series is designed to develop both advanced English and critical thinking skills. Rather than searching for "correct" answers, you will explore complex questions, challenge your assumptions, analyse different perspectives, and justify your opinions using clear and persuasive language.

In this first workbook, we examine one of humanity's oldest and most fascinating questions: *What makes us human?* Through thought-provoking discussions, real-world dilemmas, and problem-solving activities, you will discover that the most meaningful questions often have no simple answers.



The First Challenge.

Imagine you could remove one thing from a person—memories, emotions, language, physical appearance, or consciousness. Which one would change them the most?

At what point would they no longer be the same person?

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Language For Thought.

Read the vocabulary words, their definitions, and the example sentences. Be prepared to use them throughout this workbook.

Consciousness

Meaning: The state of being aware of yourself and your surroundings.

Example: Scientists still debate what creates human consciousness.

Identity

Meaning: The qualities and beliefs that make someone who they are.

Example: Our experiences play an important role in shaping our identity.

Perception

Meaning: The way we understand or interpret something.

Example: Two people can have completely different perceptions of the same event.

Autonomy

Meaning: The ability to make your own decisions independently.

Example: Personal autonomy is an important part of human freedom.

The Second Challenge.

Imagine a scientist creates an exact copy of you. The copy has the same appearance, the same memories, the same personality, and the same experiences.

The original you and the copy both believe they are the real person.

Who is the real you?

Explain your reasoning. Consider the role that memory, identity, and consciousness play in defining who we are.

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Grammar For Thought.

Conditional Sentences.

Read the examples and notice how we use conditional structures to discuss possible, imaginary, and unreal situations.

First Conditional – Real Possibilities - Structure: If + present simple, will + base verb

Use: To talk about a possible situation in the future and its likely result.

Example: If scientists discover a way to copy human memories, society will face difficult ethical questions.

Second Conditional – Imaginary or Unreal Situations - Structure: If + past simple, would + base verb

Use: To talk about hypothetical situations that are unlikely, impossible, or imagined.

Example: If you lost all your memories, would you still be the same person?

Third Conditional – Imagining a Different Past - Structure: If + past perfect, would have + past participle

Use: To talk about situations in the past that did not happen and their possible results.

Example: If humans had understood identity differently, society might have developed different beliefs about what makes us human.