

## My Properties

### Background:

Consider two different kinds of properties that a thing can have:

accidental properties and essential properties.

The *accidental properties* of a thing are those properties that the thing in question has, but doesn't have to have. That is, while the thing does have those properties, it would still exist if it didn't have those properties. For example, the number 3 has the accidental property 'being my favorite number'. (It really is; I *love* the number 3—it's the second smaller prime number, after all. How cool is that?) The reason this property is one that the number 3 *doesn't have to have* is that I could have like another number, say the number 7, more than the number three; or had I not existed at all, then the number 3 wouldn't have the property in question since I would not exist.

In contrast, the *essential properties* of a thing are those properties that the thing in question *not only does have* but also *has to have*. In other words, the thing couldn't be what it is without having its essential properties. The number 3 essentially has the property 'being the number of sides in a triangle' or 'being the smallest odd number larger than 2'.

**Questions:**

Think about yourself and indicate whether you think that the properties in question are accidental properties or essential properties had by you:

	<u>Essential</u>	<u>Accidental</u>
(1) having the hair color that you do	(1) ____	(1) ____
(2) having been born in the particular year you were born	(2) ____	(2) ____
(3) having the particular name that your parents gave you	(3) ____	(3) ____
(4) having the particular parents that you do	(4) ____	(4) ____
(5) having parents	(5) ____	(5) ____
(6) being human (rather than, say, being a goldfish or a monkey)	(6) ____	(6) ____

Answer (7a) if you are *not a twin* (i.e., if you are a singleton); answer (7b) if you *are a fraternal twin*; answer (7c) if you *are an identical twin*:

(7a) being a singleton	(7a) ____	(7a) ____
(7b) being a fraternal twin	(7b) ____	(7b) ____
(7c) being an identical twin	(7c) ____	(7c) ____

Answer (8a) if you are a male, and (8b) if you are a female:

(8a) being male (that is, having XY chromosomes)	(8a) ____	(8a) ____
(8b) being female (that is, having XX chromosomes)	(8b) ____	(8b) ____

List any other essential properties had by you that you can think of:

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