

Hobbes on Nominalism

Passages wherein Hobbes advanced nominalist accounts of language, ideation, and human reasoning may be found throughout his chief philosophical works. Some of the more salient texts are referenced below. Although many of Hobbes' specific arguments and analyses were originally framed by him in his Latin works, for your convenience the citations given here are all to Sir William Molesworth's edition of *The English Works of Thomas Hobbes* (abbreviated to E.W.).

- ◆ 'True' and 'false' as attributes of speech, not things.
 - 📖 E.W. III (*Leviathan*), p. 23.
 - 📖 E.W. II (Eng. trans. *De Cive*), pp. 295-6.
- ◆ Science is knowing the consequences of names, not the nature of things.
 - 📖 E.W. III (*Leviathan*), p. 35.
 - 📖 E.W. II (Eng. trans. *De Cive*), p. 305.
- ◆ Definition as a socio-political tool.
 - 📖 E.W. III (*Leviathan*), pp. 23, 24, 36, 37.
- ◆ Correct reasoning arbitrated by the state.
 - 📖 E.W. II (Eng. trans. *De Cive*), pp. 268-9.
- ◆ Evidence for propositions reduces to sensation.
 - 📖 E.W. IV (*Human Nature*), p. 28
- ◆ Names signify (remembered) sensations.
 - 📖 E.W. I (Eng. trans. *De Corpore*), p. 16.
- ◆ Universal names name other names, not things.
 - 📖 E.W. III (*Leviathan*), p. 21.
- ◆ Names are signs of our conceptions of things, not things themselves.
 - 📖 E.W. III (*Leviathan*), p. 21.
- ◆ Propositions as copulated names.
 - 📖 E.W. I (Eng. trans. *De Corpore*), p. 30.
- ◆ The causes of names as tantamount to the causes of conceptions.
 - 📖 E.W. I (Eng. trans. *De Corpore*), pp. 32-3.