

# Glossary

A glossary for each text is found at the end of each chapter. Here are a few more general philosophical terms that are found throughout the text.

***A posteriori*** Reasoned from experience.

***A priori*** Reasoned from first principles, the truth of which are not established by the evidence of experience.

**Deduction** A form of reasoning where, if the premises are true, the conclusion must also be true.

**Empiricism** The style or school of philosophy which takes as the starting point of knowledge the data of experience.

**Epistemology** The branch of philosophy concerned with questions of knowledge and its foundations.

**Existentialism** The style or school of philosophy which takes as its starting point the idea of the necessity for humans to choose their own values.

**Induction** A form of reasoning that uses the experiences of the past or future as evidence for truths about the past, present or future that cannot be established by more direct means.

**Ontology** An account or theory of being.

**Premises** The starting points of arguments, from which conclusions are derived.

**Rationalism** The style or school of philosophy which believes the most important and fundamental truths can be established by the correct operation of reason, without reference to experience.

**Sound** An argument which is both valid and the premises of which are true.

**Valid** A successful deductive argument where the truth of the conclusion does follow necessarily from the truth of the premises.

# Further Reading

Suggestions for further reading are provided at the end of each chapter. Here are a few more general recommendations.

The companion volume to this book is *Philosophy: Key Themes* (Palgrave Macmillan).

As you might guess, it adopts a similar approach but looks at the themes of knowledge, moral philosophy, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion and political philosophy.

*The Philosophers' Magazine*, which I edit, is a quarterly aimed at general readers as well as professionals. Its website is [www.philosophers.co.uk](http://www.philosophers.co.uk)

The best single-volume reference book on the subject is the *Oxford Companion to Philosophy*, edited by Ted Honderich (Oxford University Press).

For more ways into classic texts, Nigel Warburton's *Philosophy: Basic Readings* (Routledge) is an excellent anthology.

*The Philosopher's Toolkit*, by Julian Baggini and Peter S. Fosl (Blackwell) is a comprehensive guide to the techniques of philosophical thinking and argument.

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