

Differentiated Qualities of Matter:
From the Manifest to the Hidden
(NA = Not Applicable, i.e. differentiation not yet made)

Qualities	Secondary	Primary	Occult	Noumenal
Descriptors	Taste, color, shape, Subjective	Weight, motion, Objective	Magnetism, astral, healing properties	Thing-in-itself, independent of observation and predication
Middle Ages & Ficino	Manifest	NA	Hidden	NA
Descartes & Locke	Subjective; effect	Objective; cause	Subjective; effect	NA
Berkeley	All there is	Concepts		NA
Kant	Phenomenal; adapted to the forms of sensibility and understanding; knowable 'effect'		To be explained or dropped	Noumenal; posited; Thing-in-itself; unknowable 'cause'
Hegel & Schopenhauer	World of change and becoming		Ambiguous	Spirit / Will
Blavatsky 1 (Neo-platonic)	Phenomenal Matter; effect		Noumenal; causal (layered)	
Blavatsky 2 (Cartesian)	Matter		Fohat; In-between	Divine thought
Husserl	Constituted in layers		Not impossible	Dropped
Heidegger	Primacy of ready-at-hand (significance; practical)	Derived present-at-hand (Objectness; theoretical)	Not mentioned	Dropped

The primary/secondary quality distinction

The **primary/secondary quality distinction** is a conceptual distinction in [epistemology](#) and [metaphysics](#), concerning the nature of [reality](#). It is most explicitly articulated by [John Locke](#) in his *Essay concerning Human Understanding*, but earlier thinkers such as [Galileo](#) and [Descartes](#) made similar distinctions.

Primary qualities are properties that objects have independent of any observer, such as [solidity](#), [extension](#), [motion](#), [number](#) and [figure](#). These characteristics convey facts. They exist in the thing itself, can be determined with certainty, and do not rely on subjective judgments. For example, if a ball is round, no one can reasonably argue that it is a triangle.

Secondary qualities are properties that produce sensations in observers, such as [colour](#), [taste](#), [smell](#), and [sound](#). They can be described as the effect things have on certain people. Knowledge that comes from secondary qualities does not provide objective facts about things.

Primary qualities are measurable aspects of physical reality. Secondary qualities are subjective.

(From Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary/secondary_quality_distinction)