

METAPHYSICS 101 : CHART 02

WHAT WE OBSERVE	REASONING	WHAT WE CONCLUDE
Change (any kind)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Before change: the thing/person has a potentiality to acquire some characteristic or perfection ➤ After change: actual acquisition of characteristic or perfection. ➤ Before change = thing is in potency ➤ After change = thing is in act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Act ➤ Potency
Accidental change (e.g. A man grows old, or taller; metal becomes hot)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Some feature or characteristic of a thing changes. ➤ The thing itself does not change. ➤ Therefore the feature is not the thing. ➤ Feature or characteristic = accident. ➤ Thing itself = substance. ➤ More accurately: the old accidental form is replaced by a new accidental form. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Substance ➤ Accidents
Substantial change (e.g. A cat dies and starts to rot; a piece of paper is set on fire and starts to burn)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The thing itself turns into something else. ➤ But as it turns into the other thing, it does not disappear into nothingness. Some "thing" stays throughout the change. ➤ What changes = substantial form. ➤ What stays = prime matter. ➤ More accurately: the old substantial form is replaced by a new substantial form. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prime Matter ➤ Substantial Form
Similarity and difference in things around us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All existing things have something in common. ➤ But there is something that distinguishes them from one another. ➤ The reason for which they are similar must be different from the reason for which they are different from one another. ➤ The principle by which they are similar must be different from the principle which makes them different from one another. ➤ Let the former be designated principle-1 and the latter be designated principle-2. ➤ Principle-1 = esse ➤ Principle-2 = essentia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Essence ➤ Esse