



To seek to know the self is always the wish of living beings. However, those who see the true self are rare. Only buddhas know the true self. People outside the way regard what is not the self as the self. On the other hand, what buddhas call the self is the entire earth. Thus, there is never an entire earth that is not the self, with or without our knowing it.

— Dogen

This is the Day whereon the earth shall tell out her tidings.

— Bahá'u'lláh

*As symbols grow, meanings evolve.*

τύπος

blow



dent



impression, imprint

Latin *typus*



Statue, or anything  
wrought of metal  
or stone

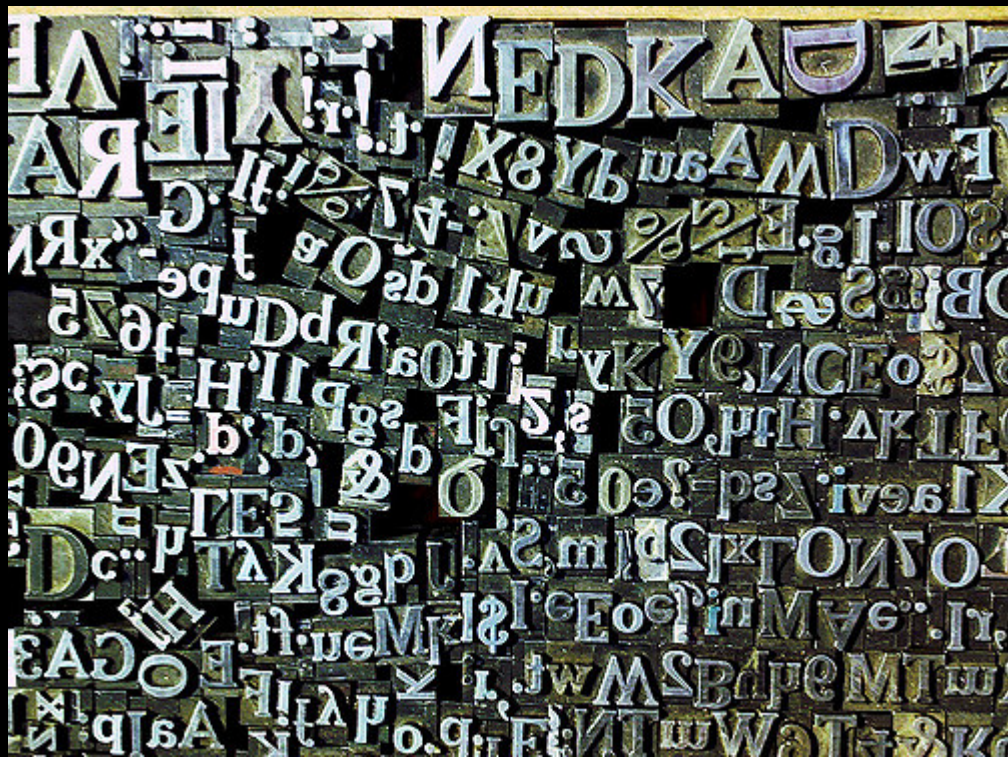
image, figure, shape, form





in English: 1. That by which something is symbolized or figured; a symbol, emblem. 1470 – 1875 (OED)

1713: Type for printing



1874: Typewriter



*image, figure, shape, form ...*

Picture a **typical** *bird*.



Does your a **typical** *bird* look like either of these?



In cognitive science, some examples of a type are more *typical* than others. One that is especially typical is called a **prototype**.



Prototypical *bird*?

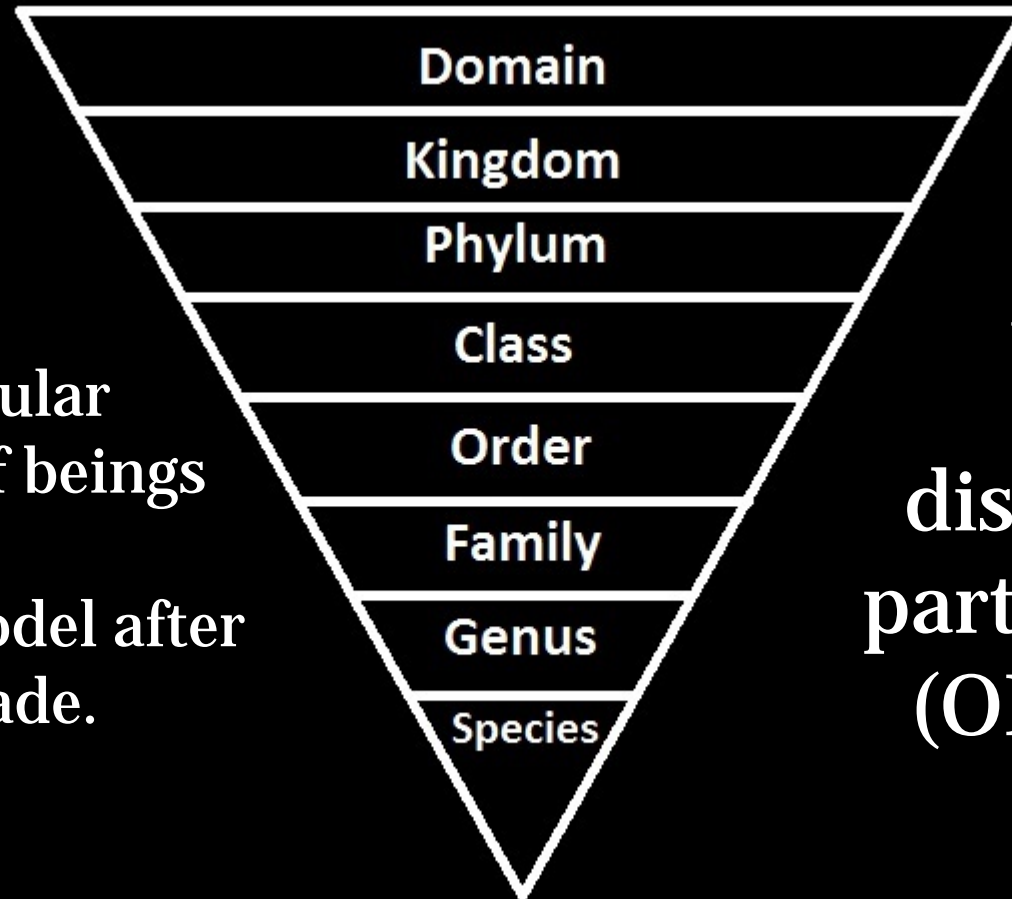
In manufacturing, a **prototype** of a new design is made first, and then used as a **model** for mass production.

But usually, the word **type** refers to a *class*, not to any *member* of the class. (What *type* of animal is a robin?)

In Natural History (1840): a species or genus which most perfectly exhibits the essential characters of its family or group, and from which the family or group is (usually) named; an individual embodying all the distinctive characteristics of a species, etc. (OED)

## Type:

The general form, structure or character distinguishing a particular kind, group, or class of beings or objects; hence *transf.* a pattern or model after which something is made. (OED; J.S. Mill, 1843)



A kind, class or order as distinguished by a particular character. (OED, from 1854)

A common mode of estimating the amount of matter in a MS. or printed book is to count the number of words. There will ordinarily be about twenty *the's* on a page, and of course they count as twenty words. In another sense of the word “word,” however, there is but one word “the” in the English language; and it is impossible that this word should lie visibly on a page or be heard in any voice, for the reason that it is not a Single thing or Single event. It does not exist; it only determines things that do exist. Such a definitely significant Form, I propose to term a *Type*.



C.S. Peirce, 1906



One word, many typefaces.

One **type**, many **tokens**.

face

face

face

face

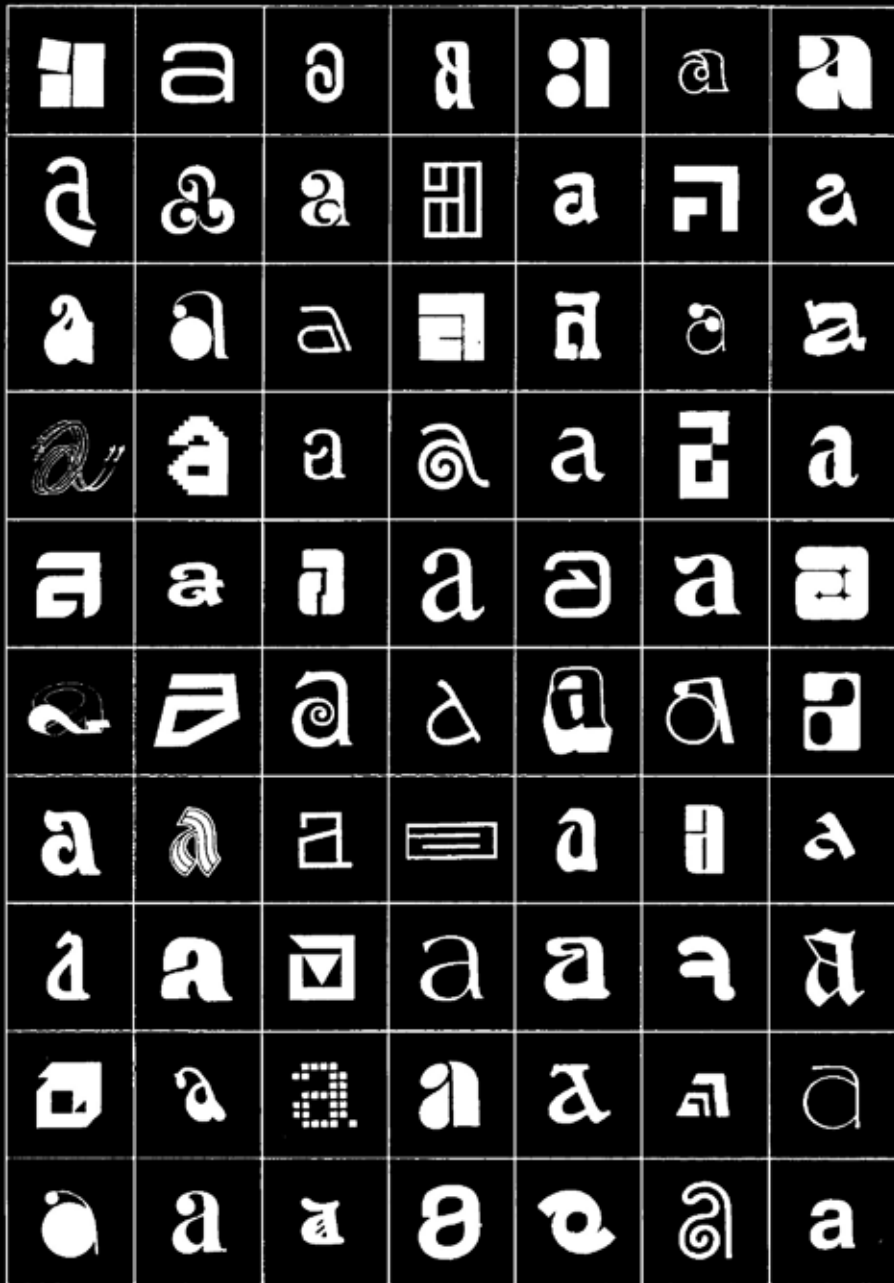
face

face

face

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face



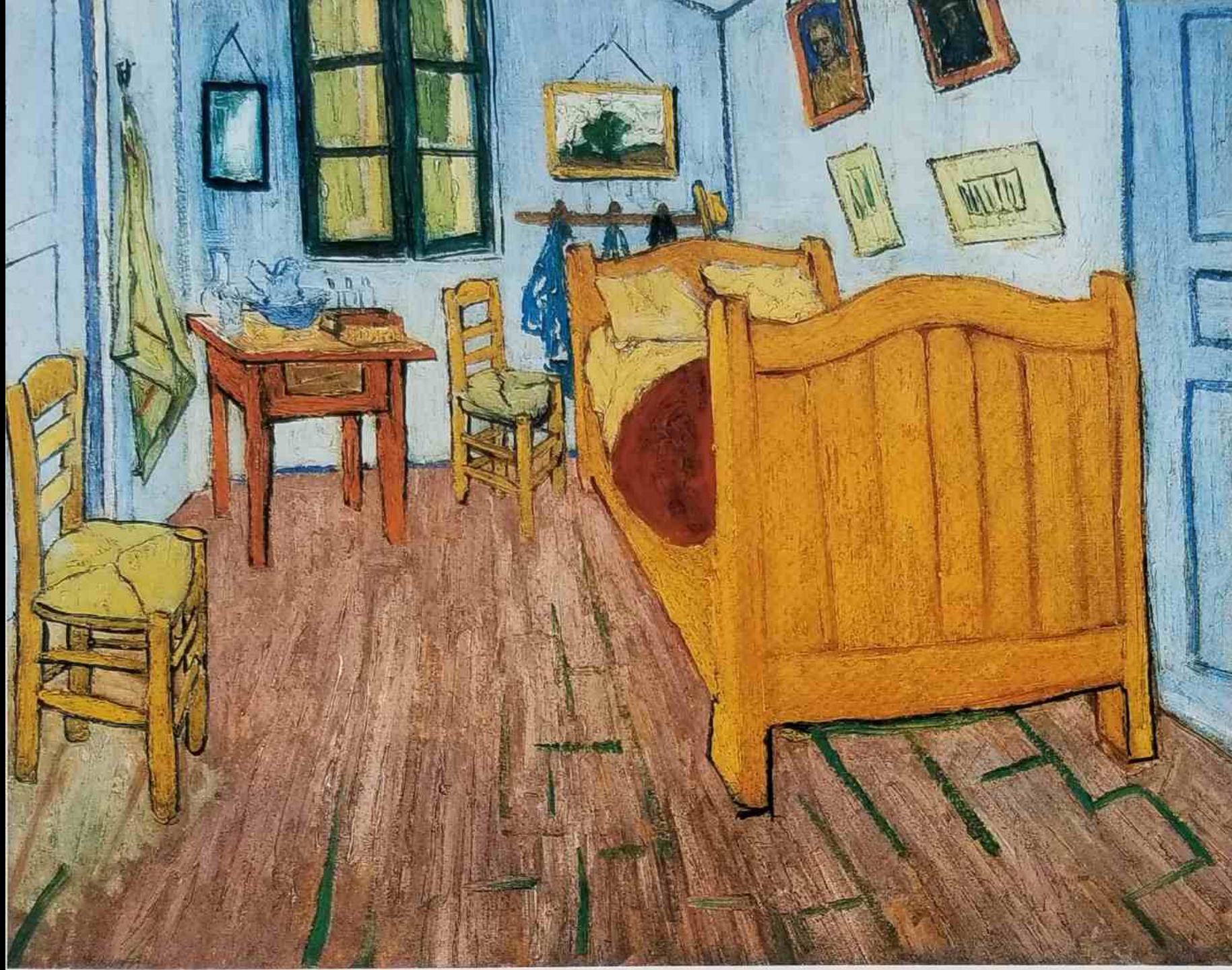
The letter “a” is a **type**.  
These are all *tokens* of it.

A font (or **typeface**) is  
also a **type**: all the letters  
share a more or less  
distinctive style. *Georgia*:  
a b c d e f g h i j k l m  
n o p q r s t u v w x y z













Think of *The Bedroom* as a **Type** manifested in three **Tokens** each with its own identity.

The “significant Form” in Vincent’s imagination guided his hand three times.



According to Peirce, ‘man, *homo*, ἄνθρωπος are the same sign.”  
That sign is a Type of which the three *words* are tokens. Each *word* is a Type within its language, but also a Token of the *sign*-Type which is language-independent.



A **habit** is a another type of Type, which connects a typical perceived situation with a typical activity (project, practice).

... there is but one word “the” in the English language; and it is impossible that this word should lie visibly on a page or be heard in any voice, for the reason that it is not a Single thing or Single event.

A *Type*, or “definitely significant Form,” does not exist; it only determines things that do exist.

How does something that does not exist **determine** things that do exist?

A *habit* is not an event, but it determines future events.

Habits are **Types**.

Just as the form in the painter's imagination determines the painting,

Your habits are definitely significant forms which determine what you will actually do in future situations.

e.g. *The Golden Rule*

The real world has habits too!

Just as the form in the painter's imagination determines the painting,

“Laws of Nature” are definitely significant forms which determine what actually happens in the real world.

e.g. *The Law of Gravity*



“Type”: a cycle of verbal meanings

Copy, replicate



Strike a blow



actual



Make an impression

Model



IDEAL

