

2. What is the case--a fact--is the **existence** of **states** of **affairs**. 2.01 A **state** of **affairs** (a **state** of things) is a combination of **objects** (things). 2.011 It is **essential** to things that they should be possible constituents of **states** of **affairs**. 2.012 In logic nothing is accidental: if a thing can occur in a **state** of **affairs**, the **possibility** of the **state** of **affairs** must be written into the thing itself. 2.0121 It would seem to be a sort of accident, if it turned out that a **situation** would fit a thing that could already exist entirely on its own. If things can occur in **states** of **affairs**, this **possibility** must be in them from the beginning. (Nothing in the province of logic can be merely possible. Logic deals with every **possibility** and all **possibilities** are its facts.) Just as we are quite unable to **imagine spatial objects** outside **space** or temporal **objects** outside time, so too there is no **object** that we can **imagine** excluded from the **possibility** of combining with others. If I can **imagine objects** combined in **states** of **affairs**, I cannot **imagine** them excluded from the **possibility** of such combinations. 2.0122 Things are **independent** in so far as they can occur in all possible **situations**, but this **form** of **independence** is a **form** of connexion with **states** of **affairs**, a **form** of dependence. (It is impossible for words to appear in two different roles: by themselves, and in **propositions**.) 2.0123 If I know an **object** I also know all its possible occurrences in **states** of **affairs**. (Every one of these **possibilities** must be part of the nature of the **object**.) A new **possibility** cannot be discovered later. 2.01231 If I am to know an **object**, thought I need not know its external **properties**, I must know all its internal **properties**.