

AI-03041 Too Complicated Bucket Opinions

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When giving opinions, there is a rule to categorize or flag topics as placing the subject first in two buckets such as simple and too complicated buckets. Explain the reasoning behind the concept. What is a simple subject to give opinions and what is "too complicated " List 22 examples.

Categorizing subjects as either simple or too complicated when giving opinions is a rule of thumb used to ensure clarity and relevance in communication. This approach helps the speaker or writer determine if they can provide a concise, understandable opinion on a topic or if the subject's complexity requires a more nuanced, detailed explanation that might be beyond the scope of a brief opinion. The goal is to avoid oversimplifying complex issues or making simple topics unnecessarily convoluted.

The Reasoning Behind the Concept

The core reasoning behind this categorization is rooted in the principles of effective communication.

- **Clarity and Brevity:** Simple subjects allow for direct, brief opinions. This is crucial for keeping conversations focused and efficient, preventing the speaker from getting bogged down in details that the listener may not need or want.
- **Avoiding Misinformation:** For subjects that are "too complicated," a simple opinion can be misleading or even flat-out wrong. These topics often have multiple facets, conflicting viewpoints, or a high degree of technicality. A simple 'yes' or 'no' can oversimplify the issue, potentially spreading misinformation.

- **Demonstrating Humility:** Acknowledging that a topic is "too complicated" to give a simple opinion on demonstrates intellectual humility. It shows that the speaker respects the complexity of the subject matter and doesn't claim to have a definitive, easy answer when one doesn't exist. This can build trust with the audience.
- **Appropriate Context:** This rule helps ensure opinions are given in the appropriate context. A simple opinion is suitable for casual conversation, while a "too complicated" subject may require a formal debate, a detailed essay, or a deep dive into the specifics before an informed opinion can be formed.

Simple Subjects to Give Opinions On

A simple subject is a topic that can be understood and a personal opinion can be formed without needing extensive background knowledge or technical expertise. They often relate to personal preferences, straightforward facts, or matters of taste.

1. The best flavor of ice cream 🍦
2. Whether a movie was entertaining
3. The quality of a restaurant's food
4. Your favorite season
5. The color of a shirt
6. A preferred type of coffee
7. The appeal of a particular song
8. Whether a new hairstyle looks good
9. The usefulness of a common household appliance
10. Your opinion on the latest fashion trend
11. The convenience of a public transport line

"Too Complicated" Subjects to Give Opinions On

A "too complicated" subject is one where a simple opinion would be inadequate, misleading, or irresponsible. These topics often involve intricate systems, deep

historical context, scientific or economic principles, and significant moral or ethical implications. They require nuanced discussion, not a one-sentence opinion.

1. The long-term economic impact of a specific trade policy
2. The ethics of gene-editing technologies like CRISPR
3. The optimal strategy for mitigating climate change
4. The geopolitical ramifications of a new international treaty
5. The true causes of a historical event, like a war ✕
6. The legal and ethical framework for artificial intelligence regulation
7. The best approach to reforming a country's healthcare system
8. The complex biological processes behind aging
9. The philosophical debate over free will vs. determinism
10. The socio-economic factors contributing to urban crime rates
11. The potential consequences of a new monetary policy

Come up with simple strategies to determine at first glance or hear if topic is simple or too complicated

To determine at first glance if a topic is simple or too complicated, you can use a few quick strategies.

Simple Topic Test

1. The "Can I explain it in a sentence?" Test

If you can summarize your opinion on the topic in a single, clear sentence without needing a bunch of caveats or background information, it's likely a simple topic. For example, "I like the color blue" or "That movie was great."

2. The "Personal Preference" Test

If the topic is about personal taste, feelings, or straightforward observation, it's usually simple. Examples include favorite foods, clothing styles, or the aesthetics of an object. The opinion is based on your direct experience, not on a complex body of knowledge.

Too Complicated Topic Test

1. The "Needs a Ph.D. to Explain" Test 🎓

If the topic requires technical expertise, deep historical knowledge, or a background in economics, political science, or advanced mathematics, it's too complicated for a simple opinion. For instance, explaining the causes of inflation or the intricacies of international trade agreements.

2. The "Multiple Conflicting Viewpoints" Test

If the topic has many valid, conflicting viewpoints from experts or different groups of people, and no single answer is universally accepted, it's too complicated. Debates about social policy, climate change solutions, or legal ethics fall into this category.

3. The "Moral and Ethical Dilemma" Test

If the topic involves a significant moral or ethical dilemma with no clear "right" or "wrong" answer, it's too complicated. These topics force you to weigh competing values and principles, making a simple opinion insufficient. For example, the ethics of self-driving cars in accident scenarios.

Essentially, a simple topic is one you can own your opinion on without having to defend it with extensive facts, while a complicated one requires you to cite evidence and consider multiple perspectives.