

Discussion Questions – George Berkeley

“Did you hear that George Berkeley died? His girlfriend stopped seeing him.”

1. *Berkeley claimed that 'to be is to be perceived'. What do you think he meant by this?*
2. *If a tree falls in a forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound? How would Berkeley answer this question?*
3. *Do you find Berkeley's idea—that physical objects are just ideas in the mind—convincing? Why or why not?*
4. *What role does God play in Berkeley's philosophy? Do you think this is a strength or a weakness of his system?*
5. *How does Berkeley's philosophy compare with that of John Locke or René Descartes?*
6. *Can you think of any modern examples or technologies (e.g., virtual reality) that make Berkeley's ideas feel more relevant today?*
7. *What might be the implications of Berkeley's philosophy for how we understand reality, truth, and science?*

