**1:3 Definitions Assignment**

**Introduction:**

The purpose of assignment 1:3 is to learn to write definitions which are intended for a “non-technical” audience. The assignment asked us to choose a complex term which relates to my specialization: human geography. This assignment outlined three specific types of definitions: parenthetical, sentence and expanded definition. Each which utilized different degree of depth on our chosen word, depending on the context in which it was found. The term I have chosen to define is *sophistication*. There are various uses and definitions for the term *sophistication*. Since I am studying human geography (social, and behavioural geography), my definitions focus on the social quality of sophistication.

**Term: *Sophistication***

**Parenthetical definition:**

To become the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, was expected to possess inordinate *sophistication* (a measure of refinement).

**Sentence definition:**

*Sophistication* is a quality of characteristics by which an individual is considered to possess ‘worldly wisdom’.

**Expanded definition:**

Figure 1: Test your sophistication!

**Emetology**: The term sophistication originates from the Greek term ‘sophistikos’ (of/or pertaining to a sophist), from ‘sophistes’ (master or teacher), and all rooting from the Greek term ‘sophos’ (wise). Greek ‘sophistes’ came to describe individuals who were paid for their intellectual instruction, and at Athens, these individuals were contrasted with “philosophers” and “poets”.

**Definition**

Sophistication, therefore, is attributed to a measure of qualities of possessing ‘worldly wisdom’ stemming from education and/or from worldly experience. Those who possess qualities of *sophistication* – ‘sophisticates’ –are those who possess refined tastes and knowledge of social importance.

Image from <https://s3.amazonaws.com/lowres.cartoonstock.com/class-sophistication-test-glass-drink-beverage-ibn0004_low.jpg>

**Visual:** While Figure 1, is intended to be humorous, it provides a good example of *sophistication*. While sophistication can be associated with status, privilege, and hierarchy it is often confused or mistakenly attributed with wealth and economic status. However, *sophistication*, is a socially constructed measure of refinement and complexity, which reflects understanding of the world and its ways: educated knowledge. As an example, the understanding of what kinds of beverages various glasses are intended to hold, or table manners, could give one the air of sophistication.

**References:**

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