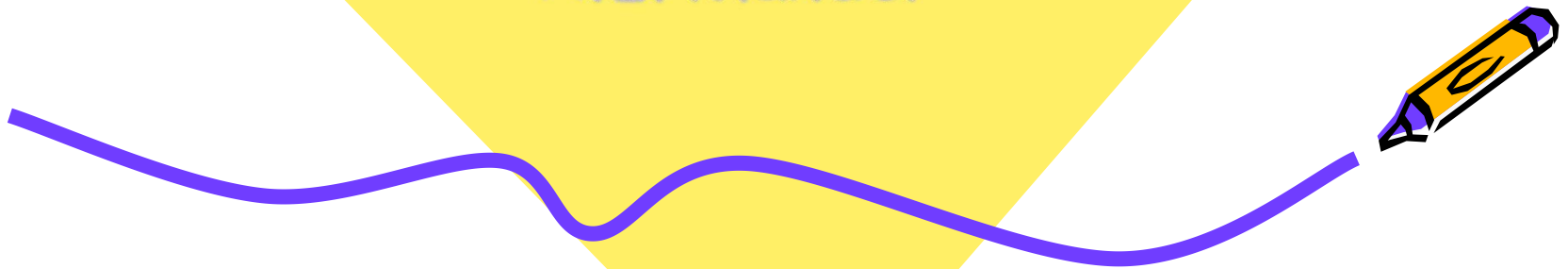
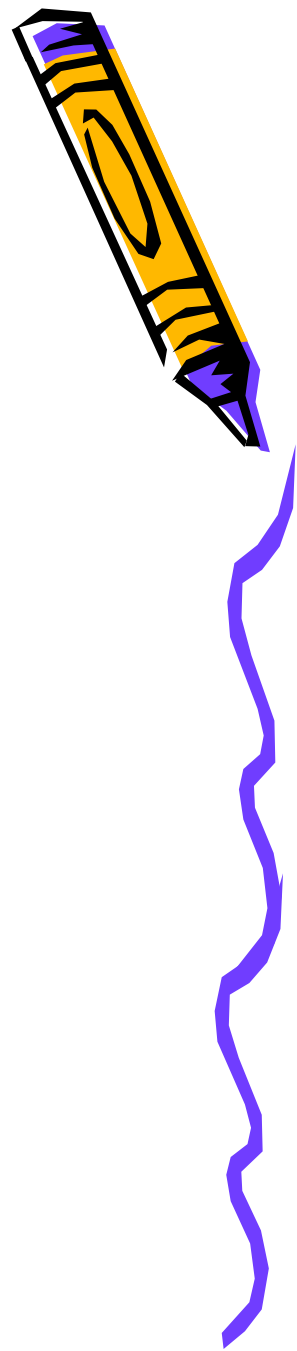


Groundless Beliefs

A.E. Mander





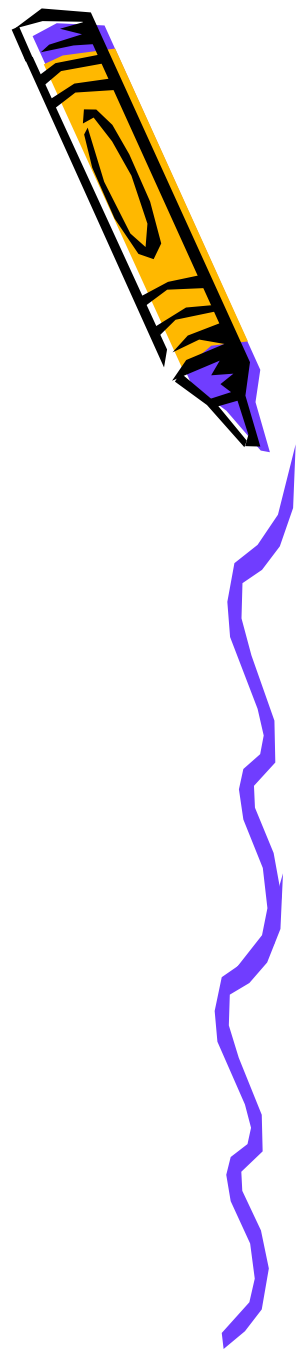
- I. Background Information
- II. Warm Up
- III. Language Study
- IV. Text Analysis
- V. Extension



Author

His Life and Works

- **A. E. Mander (1894-1985)**
- ✓ A well-published Australian scholar.
- **Books**
- ✓ Logic for the millions
- ✓ Clearer thinking (logic for everyman)
- ✓ The making of the Australians
- ✓ Our sham democracy
- ✓ Psychology for everyman (and woman)
- ✓ Clearer thinking; logic for everyday use
- ✓ Public enemy, the press
- ✓ Alarming Australia



Author

Quotations from Mander's book

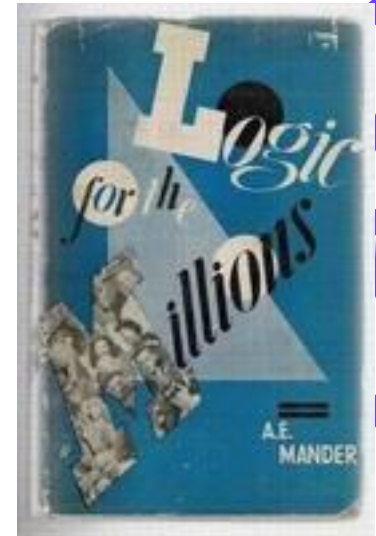


- The trouble with most folks is not so much their ignorance, as their "knowing" so many things which *ain't* so.

----- Josh Billings

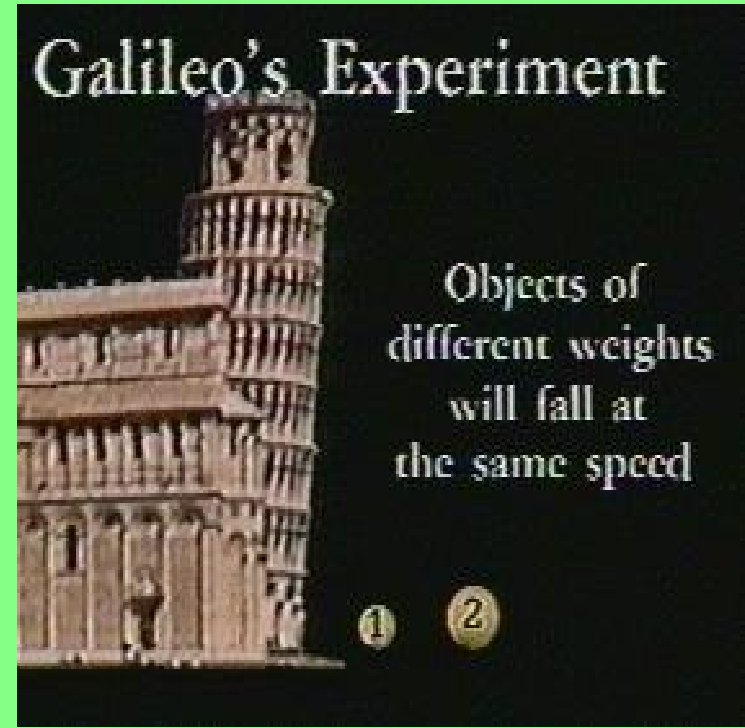
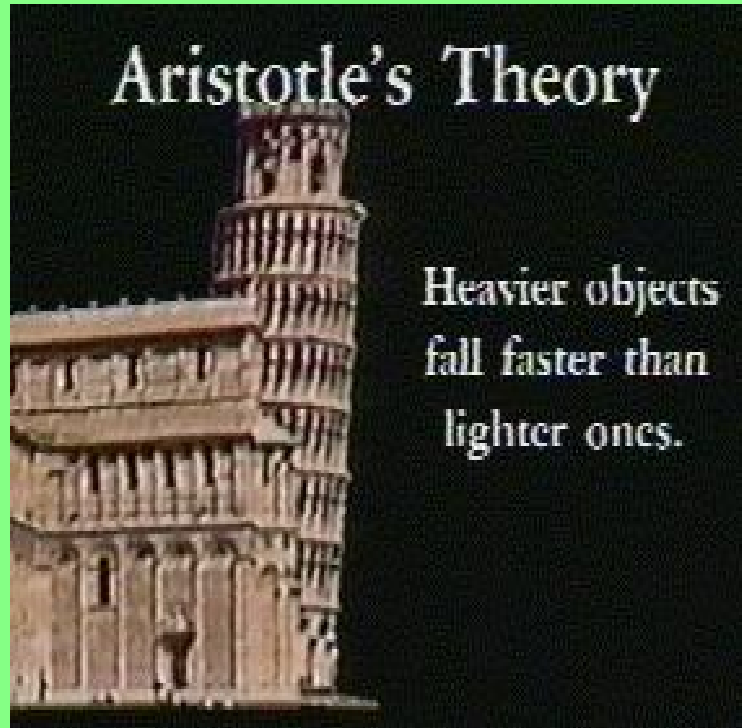
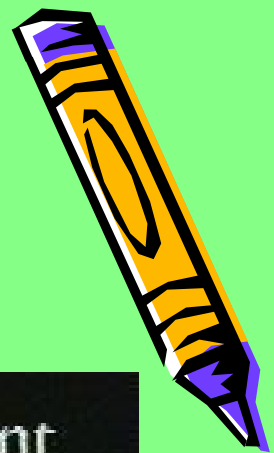
- He who cannot reason is a fool; he who will not is a bigot; he who dare not is a slave.

-----W. Drummond



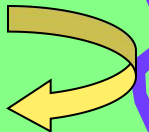
Background Information

Aristotle vs. Galileo's



Why was Galileo able to prove Aristotle wrong?

What lesson shall we learn from Galileo's experiment?



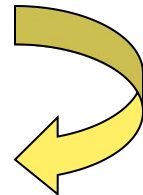
Warm Up



What is a groundless belief?

It is a belief which has no ground or foundation. It is not supported with proof or evidence.

Can you give us some examples in your life that are groundless?



Language Study



- attribute:

v. a. to relate to a particular cause or source;

b. to regard as the work of a specified agent or creator: 认为是...所为(所写/所做)

e.g. David attributed his company's success to the unity of all the staff and their persevering hard work.

a symphony attributed to Mozart

attribute: n. a quality or feature of sb./sth.

e.g. Organizing ability is essential attribute for a good manager.

Lightning bolts are an attribute of Zeus.



Dispose C.f. disposal disposition
to make sb behave in a particular way

((1))Dispose sb to do sth

E.g. The hard conditions in our village
do not dispose our young people to
go in for farming.

(2) Dispose of sth

E.g. One headache today is how to
dispose of city garbage



Extend c.f. extensive extent extension
to increase, enlarge, spread, widen (scope,
meaning, area, etc.)

e.g. The desert extends over almost one
third of the country.

The government has decided to extend the
national park to include the beautiful
mountains nearby.

The people here extended a warm welcome
to our delegation.



Stock

1. Commonly used and not original or interesting

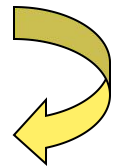
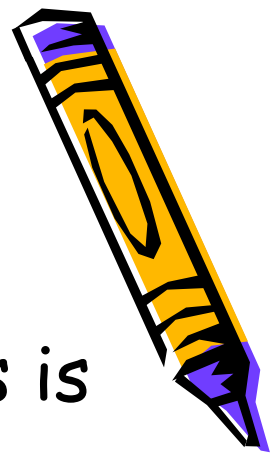
e.g. Whenever you go to him for help, this is the stock answer he will give.

2. The total merchandise kept on hand by a merchant (in stock/out of stock)

e.g. The shop was closed that day for stock-taking.

3. A share in a company or the total value of all the shares of a company

e.g. It was known as Black Friday because on that day the stock market collapsed.





I. The Introduction (para. 1): Prevalence of groundless beliefs

II. The body (paras. 2-24): Types/Causes of groundless beliefs

1. Result of environment in early life. (paras. 2-3)
2. Parroting. (paras. 4-13)
3. Self-interest (paras. 14-17)
4. Sentimental associations (paras. 18-19)
5. Fashion (paras. 20-24)

III. The conclusion (para. 25): The writer's praise of rational thinkers



Detailed Analysis

Part I: The Introduction (para.1): Prevalence of groundless beliefs

Main Idea

- What does the author advocate in the first sentence?
- Have you ever asked yourself these questions?
- Can you give examples of groundless beliefs which rest upon “mere tradition” or somebody’s “bare assertion”?



Detailed Analysis



Part I: Sentence Paraphrase

- They rest upon mere tradition, or on somebody's bare assertion unsupported by even a shadow of proof...
(para. 1)

be based on

the slightest trace of proof

These groundless believes are either based on tradition or on somebody's strong claims which are not supported by the slightest trace of proof.



Detailed Analysis

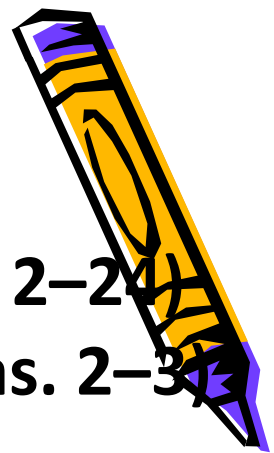


Part I: Exercise

- Translate the following sentences into English, using words in the brackets.
 - 如今，在他们生活的城市，农民工很少被当成市民看待。(class)
 - Yet few of migrant workers are even classed as citizens of the city where they live.
 - 一个国家的实力不只是取决于经济发展；它至少在相同的程度上有赖于其教育水平。(rest upon)
 - The strength of a country does not rest upon economic development alone; it rests upon education, at least to the same extent.
 - 我们明确地知道，人的生命从何时开始。(a shadow of...)
 - We know, without a shadow of a doubt, when human life begins.



Detailed Analysis



Part II: Types/Causes of groundless beliefs (paras. 2–24) Section 1. Result of environment in early life. (paras. 2–34)

- How can a simple “suggestion” become a “belief”?
 - ✓ ...**uncritically** we accepted and believed it.
 - ✓ ...we didn't have **the power of questioning**.
- How shall we deal with the beliefs developed in early childhood?



Detailed Analysis

Part II: Exercise

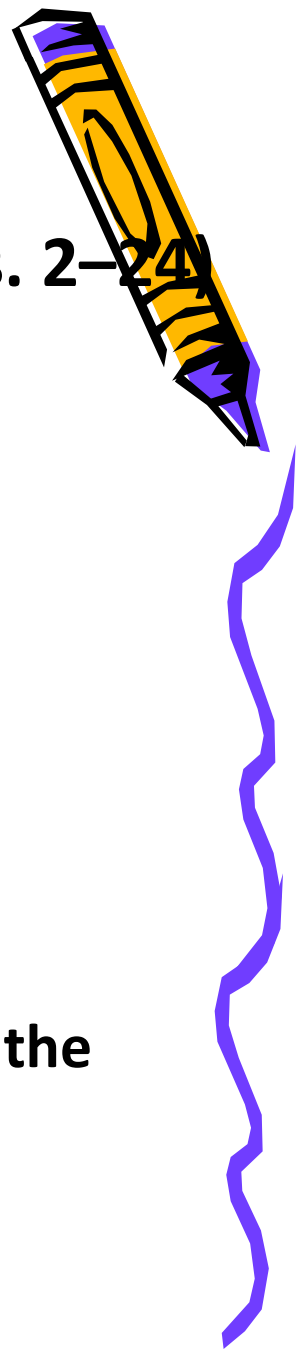


- Translate the following sentences into English, using words in the brackets.
 - 尽管中国有此抱怨,但世界贸易组织称碳关税符合世界贸易规则。(consistent)
 - Despite bluster from Beijing, the WTO says carbon tariffs can be consistent with world trade rules.

 - 尽管沃尔玛员工的确一般比较穷, 但去那里购物的人也同样如此。(the same)
 - While it is true that Walmart employees tend to be poor, the same is true of Walmart shoppers.



Detailed Analysis



Part II: Types/Causes of groundless beliefs (paras. 2–24) Section 2. Parroting. (paras. 4–13)

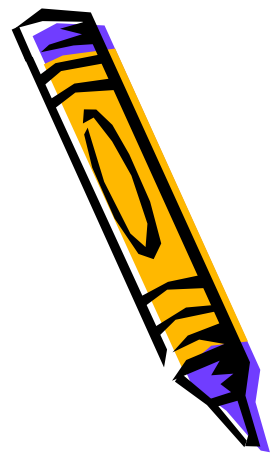
Main Idea

- **What does “parroting” mean?**
 - ✓ Copy, echo, or repeat without question.
 - ✓ Accept only such new ideas as fit in with the ideas we already hold

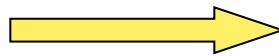
- **How should we treat other people’s ideas according to the author?**



Detailed Analysis



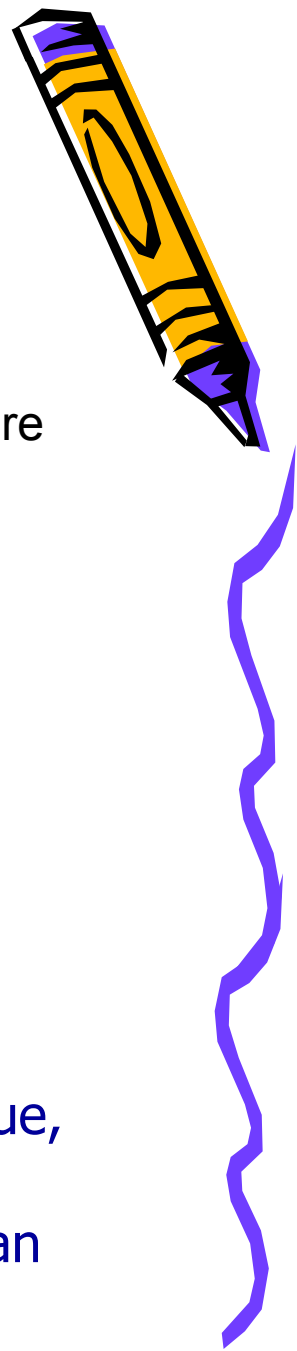
- What's the author opinion of newspapers and advertisements?
- Why do we tend to accept only such new ideas as fit in with the ideas we already hold; and all conflicting ideas seem to us "obviously" absurd?
- What propositions should we treat with caution?
 - ✓ Old propositions
 - ✓ Obvious truths



Progress in human thought seems to consist mainly in getting rid of such ideas.



Detailed Analysis



Part II: Sentence Paraphrase

- When we find ourselves entertaining an opinion about which there is a feeling that even to enquire into it would be absurd, unnecessary, undesirable, or wicked—we may know that that opinion is a non-rational one. (para. 7)

allow yourself to consider it
as possible or as worth
thinking about seriously

Another common mistake we make is to judge opinions according to our feelings. An opinion is true because it is true, not because we like it or find it desirable or useful. In fact, truth can often be unpleasant or painful whereas untruth can be soothing and attractive.



Detailed Analysis

Part II: Exercise



- Translate the following sentences into English, using words in the brackets.
 - 我不会考虑从事这种不跟人打交道的工作。(entertain)
 - I wouldn't entertain the idea of such an unsociable job.

 - 我决不相信那个荒谬绝伦的故事。(credit)
 - I shall never credit that absurd tale.

 - 人们永远根据其它人的行动调整他们的行为。(in the light of)
 - Humans are forever adapting their behaviour in the light of others' actions.



Detailed Analysis



Part II: Types/Causes of groundless beliefs (paras. 2–24) Section 3. Self-interest (paras. 14–17)

Main Idea

- **What does “self-interest” mean?**
 - ✓ Way of earning one’s livelihood and acquiring wealth
 - ✓ Social position
 - ✓ Justification



Detailed Analysis

Part II: Exercise



- Translate the following sentences into English, using words in the brackets.
 - 她认为她的高寿是精心安排饮食的结果。(attribute)
 - She attributes her great age to carefully planned diet.
 - 他坚信有朝一日他会返回故乡。(cling to)
 - He clings to the belief that one day he will be able to return to his native home.
 - 自此以后，许多中央银行明白了，流通纸币，信任就是一切。(many a)
 - With paper money, confidence is everything, as many a central bank has since then discovered.

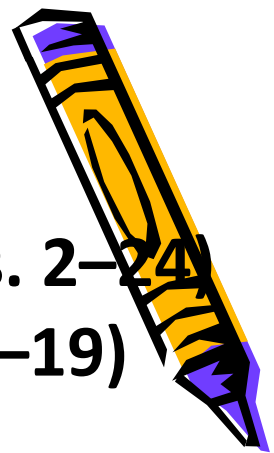


Detailed Analysis

Part II: Types/Causes of groundless beliefs (paras. 2–24)
Section 4. Sentimental associations (paras. 18–19)

Main Idea

- **What examples do you have for groundless beliefs originated from “sentimental associations”?**
- **How shall we avert such a tendency?**



Detailed Analysis

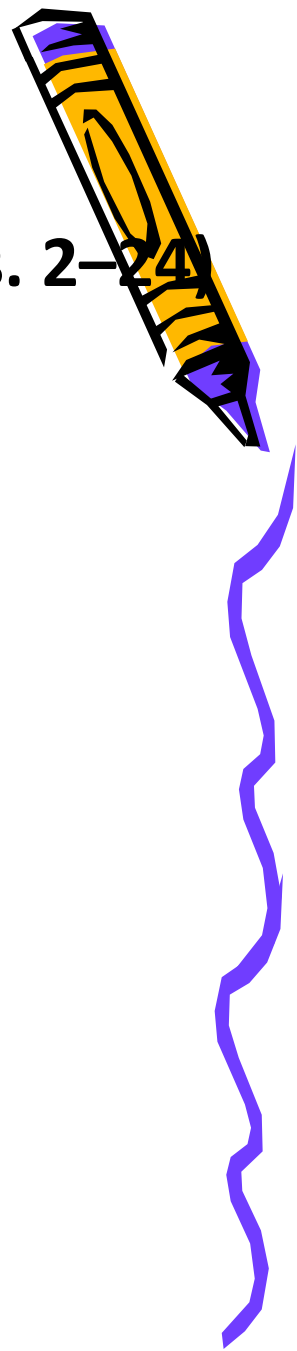
Part II: Exercise



- Translate the following sentences into English, using words in the brackets.
 - 无论你怎么看待马克思，你都不可能贬低他在我们的世界中所发挥的作用。(belittle)
 - Whatever one may think about Marx, one must not belittle the role he plays in our world.
 - 如果任何人辜负了她的信任，她会怨恨一辈子。(grudge)
 - She could hold a life-long grudge against anyone who betrayed her trust.
 - 市场情况的变化使我们倾向于取消合同。(dispose)
 - Changes in the market conditions here dispose us to cancel the contract.



Detailed Analysis



Part II: Types/Causes of groundless beliefs (paras. 2–24) Section 5. Fashion (paras. 20–24)

Main Idea

- **What does the author mean by “fashion”?**
- ✓ How others of our own set feel and believe
- ✓ Habits of thought



Detailed Analysis

Part III: The conclusion (para. 25) The writer's praise of rational thinkers

Main Idea

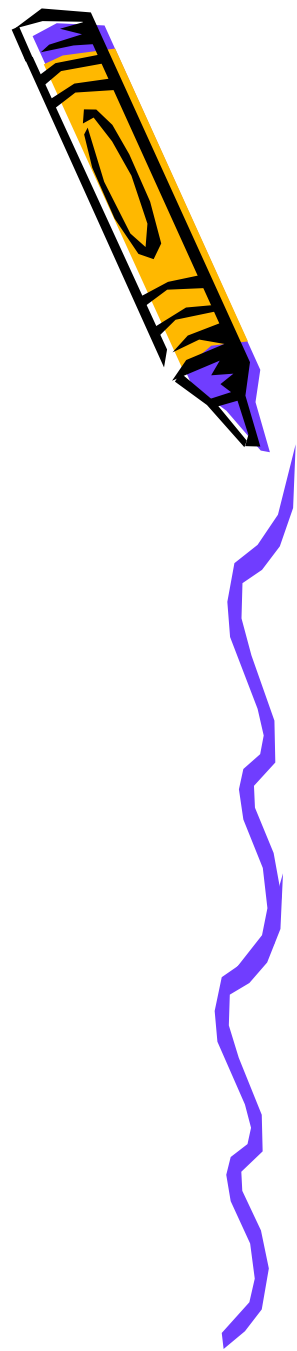
➤ What are the features of rational minds?

A desire

✓ To discover,

✓ To think things out clearly and rationally

to get at the truth

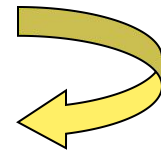


Detailed Analysis



Part III: Exercise

- Translate the following sentences into English, using words in the brackets.
 - 你应体谅其他人所犯得错误并且原谅那些冒犯你的人。
(make allowance for)
 - You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you.
 - 你要确定是自己走近作者并去领会他的想法，而不是寻找自己的观点。(get at)
 - Be sure that you go to the author to get at his meaning, not to find yours.



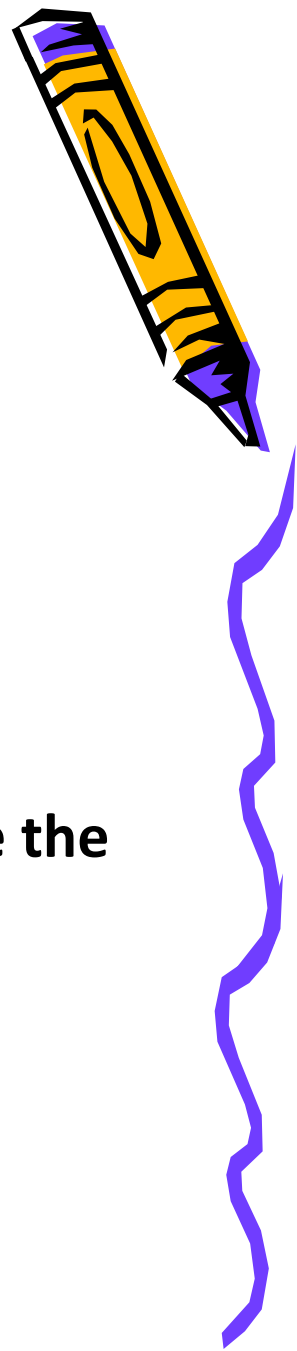
Extension

- **What are the five main sources of groundless beliefs?**

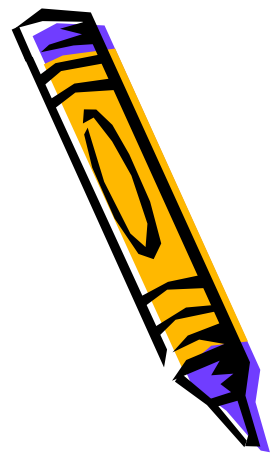
1. Early environment;
2. The habit of parroting;
3. Self-interest;
4. Sentimental association;
5. Fashion.

- **What words should we watch out for so as to minimize the influence of groundless beliefs?**

- ✓ Naturally
- ✓ Obviously
- ✓ By nature
- ✓ Inevitable
- ...



Extension



Work in groups of four:

- What other examples of groundless beliefs do you have?
- Why do you think groundless beliefs are so common?
- What are the dangers of groundless beliefs?
- How could we keep the monster of groundless belief at bay?

