

Type of Identity	Statement	A priori or A posteriori Necessary or Contingent	Why? Intuition/Argument
Type-type ¹ theoretical	Gold is the element that has the atomic number 79.	Necessary ² A posteriori	Consider finding fool's gold in all the areas which actually contain gold now. Would this stuff be gold? No, it doesn't have the atomic number 79.
Topic neutral	Gold is this stuff that is soft and yellow, found in the earth, recovered by mining...	Contingent A priori	Could we have discovered that gold was not in fact yellow? Yes, we would say that it appeared that gold was yellow, but in fact gold has turned out to be blue.
Type-type theoretical	Hesperus is Phosphorus.	Necessary A posteriori	Both 'Hesperus' and 'Phosphorus' rigidly designate. Identity statements between rigid designators are necessarily true, if true at all.
Designator	The heavenly body in such and such position in the morning is the heavenly body in such and such position at night.	Contingent A posteriori	We can imagine in a world where two different bodies occupy such and such positions in the sky at night and in the morning.
Type-type theoretical	Water is H ₂ O.	Necessary A posteriori	Consider finding fool's water that falls from the sky and fills oceans..., but has the atomic structure NaCl in another possible world. Would this stuff be water? No, we are thinking of something other than H ₂ O having the contingent properties that we fixed the reference of water by in the actual world.
Natural Kind	Water is the stuff that flows from lakes and streams, filling oceans, falling from the skies...	Contingent A priori	Say we find H ₂ O in this world that doesn't display the same phenomenological characteristics as water has exhibited in the past. Would this H ₂ O be water? Yes, scientists would start coming up with explanations about how this type of H ₂ O appears to us in this way.
Type-type Theoretical	Heat is molecular motion.	Necessary A posteriori	Consider a world in which heat is not molecular motion. Would this stuff be heat? No. See Water is H ₂ O. Heat is first picked out by one of its accidental properties, and then discovered to be molecular motion.
Natural Kind	Heat is that which is sensed by sensation S.	Contingent A priori	We can imagine a world where heat exists, and we do not. In that world, heat would not be sensed by sensation S.
Designator	The 1 st postmaster general is the inventor of the bifocals.	Contingent A posteriori	Neither term rigidly designates. A world without one is consistent with a world without the other.
Type-type	Pain is C-fibers firing.	If true, then necessary a posteriori, but Kripke does not have such intuitions.	Pain is picked out by its phenomenological quality. The reference of the designator is determined by an essential property of pain rather than an accidental one, as is with heat.

¹ If A=B, then anything that is of type A will also be of type B.

² Kripke says that we could find out that we are mistaken in this, but we will take it for given gold has the atomic number 79.

