INDEX

action(s)
Davidson’s approach to, 193
morality of, 83
virtuous, 89–93
affection, 235–37
“Against Philosophy” (Steven Weinberg), 132
agape, 235
Amy. See Farrah Fowler, Amy Anderson, Carl David, 119, 120
anthropology, 105
antiessentialism, 247
antimatter, 119
antirealism, 196, 198, 200
apologies, insincere, 209–11
Arendt, Hannah, 70, 71
Aristippus, 82
Aristotle
on courage, 230
on friendship, 18, 22–29, 32–33, 235, 240
on the function of art forms, 15, 16
on the function of things, 10–12
and geeky obsessions, 11–12
and how we should live, 8
on the humanities, 17
hypothetical evaluation of Sheldon by, 18–19
on injustice, 227
and lying, 207
and moderation for development of virtue, 42–46
on obligations in personal relationships, 228
on virtuous action, 89, 90
and worthiness of mental activities, 13–14
art and artworks
Aristotle on, 13–16
creators’ intentions for, 53
societal discourse about, 141
Asperger’s syndrome, 53–63
as a disability, 60–63
and functionality, 58–60
and language/cognitive delays, 54–55
and patterns of behavior, 57–58
and social impairment, 55–58
astrophysics, 117–18
attractiveness and intelligence continuum, 249–51
Augustine, 164–66, 210
authorial intention
for artworks, 53
in creating Sheldon’s character, 62–63
autism, 52–53. See also Asperger’s syndrome
balance, in the use of technology, 42–46
bald-faced lies, 211
Barnett, Dr. Stephanie, 87, 227
Barry. See Kripke, Barry Beardley, Monroe, 53
Beauvoir, Simone de, 247
behavior patterns
in Asperger’s syndrome, 57–58
predicting, 102–3
Behe, Michael, 149–50
belief(s)
and cognitive dissonance, 229
physiology of, 134
religious, 145, 146, 157
See also religion
Bentham, Jeremy, 81
Berlin, Isaiah, 190–91
Bernadette. See Rostenkowski, Bernadette
Beverly. See Hofstadter, Beverly
biblical inerrancy, 146–47
big bang, 153–54
Billy Sparks, 66
bioethics, 61–62
biology, 105, 109, 133
Bloom, Stuart
and good vs. evil, 75
on Sheldon, 17
and Sheldon’s disability, 63
and Sheldon–Wheaton rivalry, 66, 67
and the social contract, 86
and truth, 176, 177, 179–80, 182, 187–88
bodily pleasures, 9–10
body
function of, 11
intellectual development and activity vs., 10
body language, ability to read, 56
Bok, Sissela, 205
bosons, 122, 124
Buber, Martin, 69
Butler, Judith, 247–49, 253
Candide (Voltaire), 69
Captain James T. Kirk, 72–73
Captain Jean-Luc Picard, 67–68
Captain Sweatpants, 63, 66
Cartesian method, 132, 141
chemistry, 105
Christianity
biblical inerrancy, 146–47
evil in the Judeo-Christian tradition, 69, 72, 77
Christy (the “whore of Omaha”), 81–82
Churchland, Patricia, 134–35
Churchland, Paul, 134–35
codependency, 224
cognitive impairment, 53–55
comic books, 13, 15
Comic Book World paradigm, 75–78
complete friendship, 28–33, 240
conceptual schemes, 193–95
Confessions (Augustine), 164
Consilience (Edward O. Wilson), 133
cornerstone, norms of, 212, 213
Cooper, Mary
learning through family differences, 144–54, 156–57
and Sheldon’s disability, 54
and Sheldon’s fight with Penny, 234
Sheldon’s relationship with, 221–24, 229–31
and tolerance, 189–95, 197–202
Cooper, Melissa (Missy), 136, 144
Cooper, Sheldon
Aristotle’s hypothetical evaluation of, 18–19
art forms preferred by, 14–16
authors’ intentions in creating, 62–63
character of, 17–18
and Dennis Kim, 93, 94
diagnosing disability of, 53–63
and evil, 65–78
and gender theory, 244, 246, 248–52
and the good life, 80
and the hierarchy of science, 99–100
on his memoirs, ix
on how to live, 7–8
idiosyncrasies of, 51–52
importance of intellect over body for, 8–10
knowledge areas of, 12–13, 140
and language, 161–74
and learning through family differences, 144–45, 148–57
and life of the intellect, 10, 11
and lying, 203–14
Penny’s friendship with, 233–43
and quantum gravity, 112, 113
relationship with mother, 221–24, 229–31
and science, 100–111, 114–17, 119, 120
and scientism, 128, 130, 132, 133, 135–41
and the social contract, 86–89, 92
and string theory, 121–25
and Todd Zarnecki, 228
and truth, 175–88
and the use of technology, 35, 37–42, 44, 46
and virtuous action, 89–92
work of, 12
courage, 42–43, 230–31
Crawley, Professor, 151
creation
discovery vs., 196, 199
self-, 247, 248
creationism, 151, 199
Crusher, Ensign Wesley, 65, 66, 204
Cynics, 10
Dalton, John, 176
dark energy, 117–18
Darwin, Charles, 149–50
Darwinian evolution, 149–53
David. See Underhill, Dr. David
Davidson, Donald, 193–94, 196, 197, 199
Davies, Paul, 153
Davis, John Jefferson, 154
deceit
intentional, 210–11
self-, 208
See also lying
De Mendacio (Augustine), 210
democracy, 191
Democritus, 176, 177
The Demon-Haunted World (Carl Sagan), 140
Dennis. See Kim, Dennis
Descartes, René, 131
diagnosing Sheldon. See disability
Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), 54
differences
within families. See family differences
as impetus for growth. See personal growth through difference
dimensions of the universe, 122–23
Dirac, Paul, 119
disability, 51–63
and authors’ intentions for Sheldon’s character, 62–63
cognitive impairment, 53–55
criteria for judging, 60–63
enability vs., 52, 63
functionality, 58–60
medical model of, 61–62
social constructivist model of, 62
social impairment, 55–58
discovery, creation vs., 196, 199
domains of science, 104–6, 140
Dr. David Underhill. See Underhill, Dr. David
Dr. Elizabeth Plimpton, 250–51
Dr. Gablehauser. See Gablehauser, Dr. Eric
Dr. Patel, 145
Dr. Stephanie Barnett, 87, 227
Emma, 94
emotions
Beverly Hofstadter’s lack of, 225–27
and cognitive dissonance, 229
Sheldon’s experience and expression of, 56
enability, 52, 63
Ensign Wesley Crusher. See Crusher, Ensign Wesley
Epicureans, 10
episode compendium, 257–60
equality of individuals, 72
eros, 235
ethical egoism, the good life and, 83–85
ethics
evil, 65–78
and laughing at disability, 51–63
science and, 138–39
and science-based view of everything, 137
and social contract theory, 89
See also morality; virtue(s)
eudaimonia, 240
eugenic movement, 138
evil, 65–78
  bad moral choices vs., 71
  banal types of, 71
  characterization of good vs., 75–78
  Leslie Winkle as, 74–77
  Nietzsche's view of, 71–73
  and Sheldon-Wheaton rivalry, 66–68
  and theodicy, 68–71
  Wil Wheaton as, 66–69, 71–73, 75–78
evolution, 149–54
exclusivist religion, 148
existentialism, 247
exploitation, 71–72
fallibility
  and antirealism, 200
  and tolerance, 197–98
falsehood
  degrees of, 176–77, 179–80
  and faulty inference, 187–88
  and inductive inference, 185–86
See also truth
falsification, 114–15, 117
family differences, 144–57
  cultural religious differences, 145–48
  opportunities for growth through, 239–40
  and probability of life, 152–56
  relationship between science and religion, 149–52
fantasy, 15–16
Farrah Fowler, Amy
  and friendship, 22, 23
  and gender theory, 244, 249, 252
  and how we should live, 9
  on the humanities, 17
  and language, 166, 169, 170
  on Leonard, 92–93
  and lying, 204, 209
  Mary Cooper's intervention with, 222
  and science, 101, 105–8, 110, 116
  Sheldon's attempted breakup with, 70
  Sheldon's friendship with, 238–39
  and tolerance, 194
  and the use of technology, 37–38, 45, 46
faulty inference, 187–88
femininity
  performance of, 248–49
  traditional stereotypes of, 250–51
feminist philosophy, 245. See also gender theory
Feynman, Richard, 116–17, 126
fortitude, 17–18
Fowler, Mrs., 209
free will
  abuse of, 69
  and good vs. evil, 77
friendship(s), 18, 21–33
  Aristotle's view of, 22–29, 32–33
  aspects of, 235–36
  conflict in, 239
  deal breakers in, 242
  and ethical egoism, 85
  importance of difference in, 238–40
  modern vs. classical, 240–42
  moral development through, 242–43
  of Penny and Sheldon, 233–43
  pleasure-based, 23–25
  Sheldon's ability to develop, 55, 56
  Sheldon's formula for, 130
  true, 28–33
  utility-based, 25–28
Fuller, Thomas, 208
functionality, 58–60
functional routines, 58–59
functions
  of art forms, 15–16
  of life elements, 10–14
fundamentalist scientism, 100
fundamental physics, 100, 105–10
Gablehauser, Dr. Eric, 93, 148, 222
Galileo, 131
games
  language, 167–73
  video, 39–40, 44
Gates, Bill, 253
geekdom, 11–12, 19
gender
  as artificial, 253
  sex vs., 245–48
  gender stereotypes, 246, 250–53
  gender studies, 17
  gender theory, 244–53
  attractiveness and intelligence continuum in, 249–51
and gender stereotypes, 246, 250–53
and men’s gender roles and
expectations, 252–53
performativity in, 247–49
and sex vs. gender, 245–48
*Gender Trouble* (Judith Butler), 247
general relativity, 118, 121
genocide, 70–71
God
  - as fact, 192
  - Sheldon’s doubt about, 68
  - as source of science, 152
  - and theodicy, 68, 69
  - unfalsifiable nature of, 114
*See also* religion
golden mean, 42–44
good
  - balance of evil and, 68
  - characterization of evil vs., 75–78
  - hedonism and, 83
  - lying as, 206
the good life, 80–95
  - and the Dennis Kim conundrum, 93–95
  - and ethical egoism, 83–85
  - and hedonism, 81–83
  - and personal differences in friendships, 241
  - and the social contract, 85–89
  - and virtue, 89–93
*See also* how we should live
grand unified theory, 106–8
gravitons, 124
Greene, Brian, 121
Grice, Paul, 212, 213
growth, personal. *See* personal growth through difference
Gupta, Lalita, 220
Harris, Sam, 133–35, 141
Hart, William, 70, 75
Hawking, Stephen, 133, 141, 152
health, 61
hedonism, 81–83
helplessness, learned, 223
Hinduism, 157
Hobbes, Thomas, 85–89
Hofstadter, Beverly
  - assessment of Howard by, 223–24
Leonard’s relationship with, 225–27, 230–32
  - and Raj’s selective mutism, 146, 220–21
  - and science, 107, 108
Sheldon’s relationship with, 22, 154, 238
Sheldon’s reverence for, 111
  - and tolerance, 194
Hofstadter, Leonard
  - and arguing, 222
  - and Dennis Kim, 93, 94
  - and entertainment, 14
  - and evolution, 151, 155
  - and friendship, 21, 23, 25–26, 29–33
  - and gender theory, 244, 246, 248–52
  - and the good life, 80
  - hugging machine built by, 227
  - and language, 161, 164, 166–73
  - laughing at, 63
  - and Leslie Winkle, 74, 123–26
  - and lying, 203–5, 207, 208, 212–14
  - and Mary’s religious beliefs, 145
  - and Nietzsche’s view of ethics, 73
  - and Penny, 115, 236, 237, 240
  - Priya’s relationship with, 220
  - and quantum gravity, 112–13, 177
  - relationship with mother, 225–27, 230–32
  - and science, 101, 102, 109, 114, 120–23
  - and scientism, 128–30, 135–39
  - and Sheldon’s conception of evil, 70, 76, 77
  - and Sheldon’s disability, 55, 56, 58, 59, 67
  - and Sheldon’s fight with Penny, 234
  - Sheldon’s friendship with, 55, 235, 239
  - and Sheldon’s meltdown, 222
  - and Sheldon’s return from Texas, 223
  - and Sheldon’s selfishness, 18
  - and Sheldon-Wheaton rivalry, 67
  - and the social contract, 86–89, 111
  - and tolerance, 193, 194
  - and truth, 175–77, 185–86
  - and the use of technology, 35, 38, 39, 41, 45, 46
  - and the value of sex, 9–10
  - and virtuous action, 91–93
  - work of, 12, 99, 113
Hofstadter, Michael, 225, 226
Holmes, Sherlock, 207
Holocaust, 70–71
Houston, Leopold, 207
Howard. See Wolowitz, Howard
how we should live, 7–19
  and Aristotle’s view of Sheldon’s life, 18–19
  and functions of life elements, 10–14
  and the humanities, 17–18
  life of the mind, 8–10
  and the purpose of life, 14–16
See also the good life
Human, All Too Human (Friedrich Nietzsche), 208
human condition
gender theory, 244–53
mother-son relationships, 219–32
personal growth through difference, 233–43
use of science for “improving,” 138–39
humanities, 17–18, 100
human life, science’s effects on, 138
humans, function of, 11
Hume, David, 133, 141, 186
inclusivist religion, 148
independent reality, 197–98
inductive inference, 184–86
inference
  faulty, 187–88
  inductive, 184–86
  logical, 181
intelligence and attractiveness continuum, 249–51
interests
  Asperger’s and patterns of, 57–58
  growth through differences in, 241
Internet, 36, 46. See also technology
intimacy, 235–36
irreducible complexity, 149, 150
Jesus, 146, 147, 152, 201–2
Joel Schumacher, 66
Johnson, Zack, 116, 209, 252
Joyce Kim, 227
Judaism, 147
Judeo-Christian tradition, evil in, 69, 72, 77
justice
  and ethical egoism, 83–84
  and parenting, 227–28
Justice League of America, 90–91
Kant, Immanuel, 205, 209
Khan Noonien Singh, 72–73, 77
Kim, Dennis, 30, 80, 93–95
Kim, Joyce, 227
Kirk, Captain James T., 72–73
Kitcher, Philip, 155
knowledge
  Davidson’s approach to, 193
  hierarchy of, 100, 105
  of lying, 207, 209
  Sheldon’s areas of, 12–13, 140
  and truth, 182–84
Koothrappali, Mrs. and Mr. and arguing, 222
  Raj’s relationship with, 219–21, 229
Koothrappali, Priya
  and friendship, 32–33
  and language, 171
Leonard’s relationship with, 93, 220, 227
Koothrappali, Rajesh (“Raj”) and arguing, 222
  and Dennis Kim, 94
  and ethical egoism, 84–85
  and friendship, 21, 24–26, 32, 33
  and gender theory, 250, 252
  and how we should live, 9
  and language, 166, 171
  laughing at, 63
  and lying, 203, 204, 208, 210
  and Mary’s religious beliefs, 145, 146, 157
parents’ relationship with, 219–21, 229
  and science, 101, 120
  and scientism, 128, 134, 138
  selective mutism of, 61, 62, 146, 220–21
  and Sheldon’s disability, 55, 58
  Sheldon’s friendship with, 55
  and Sheldon’s radio interview, 74
  and Sheldon’s return from Texas, 223
  and Sheldon-Wheaton rivalry, 66, 67, 72
  and tolerance, 192, 197
  and truth, 175, 178–82, 188
and the use of technology, 35–38, 41, 42, 44–46
and the value of sex, 10
and virtuous action, 92
work of, 12, 99, 113–14
Kripke, Barry
and evil, 74, 76, 77
and friendship, 26–27, 30
and lying, 214
Sheldon’s friendship with, 55, 130
and the use of technology, 40–41, 45, 46
Kuhn, Thomas, 115, 116
“Kurt the Giant,” 73
Lalita Gupta, 220
language, 161–74
Davidson’s approach to, 193–94
functions of, 165
as a game, 167–73
and logic, 162, 163
lying, 203–15
meaning of, 164–67, 170–72
ordinary, 163, 168, 172
social context of, 162–63, 169–71
social conventions governing, 173–74
social function of, 165–67
and truth, 198. See also truth
Wittgenstein’s theories of, 161–64
language games, 167–73
Large Hadron Collider (LHC), 137–38
Latham, Mrs., 227
laughing at Sheldon, morality of, 51–52, 63. See also disability
law of noncontradiction, 181
learned helplessness, 223
Lee, Stan, 18
Leibniz, Gottfried, 68, 69
Leonard. See Hofstadter, Leonard
Leopold Houston, 207
Leslie. See Winkle, Leslie
Leucippus, 176, 177
LHC (Large Hadron Collider), 137–38
liberalism, 190–92
life
Darwinian evolution of, 149–53
from nonlife, probability of development of, 153–55
life of the mind, 8–10, 19
literature
Aristotle on, 14, 16
creators’ intentions for, 53
societal discourse about, 141
Locke, John, 152
logic(s)
and language, 162, 163
law of noncontradiction, 181
many-valued, 181–82
and truth, 180–82
logical fallacies, 186–88
logical inference, 181
Lonely Larry, 66
loop quantum gravity, 112–13, 124–25
Louis/Louise, 245–46
love, types of, 235
lying, 203–15
constraints on, 206
as evil, 69, 70
as a good thing, 206
and intent to deceive, 210–11
as a language game, 168–69
morally permissible, 205–6
practical jokes as, 209
Sheldon’s inability to detect, 204–5
success in, 207–8, 210
and violation of social convention, 211–15
Lying (Sissela Bok), 205
magnetic monopoles, 119–20, 223
many-valued logics, 181–82
Mary. See Cooper, Mary
mathematical equations, 118–19
mathematical truths, 134
mathematics, 154–55
meaning
in language, 163–67, 170–72. See also truth
of a work, authorial intention and, 53
meanness, evil vs., 74–75
measurement, 136
medical model of disability, 61–62
Meditations on First Philosophy (René Descartes), 131
Melissa (Missy) Cooper, 136, 144
men’s gender roles and expectations, 252–53
mental activity, 8–10
  bodily indulgence vs., 10
  and geeky obsessions, 11–12
  as the point of being human, 11
  worthiness of, 13–14
metaphysical realism, 195–96, 198, 200
The Metaphysics of Morals (Immanuel Kant), 205
Michael Hofstadter, 225, 226
microbiology, 149–50
Mill, John Stuart, 82, 83, 246–47
Miller, Kenneth, 150
mind, Davidson’s approach to, 193
moderation, 42–46
modern physics, 118
monopoles, 119–20, 223
moral development, through friendships, 242–43
morality
  of actions, 83
  and ethical egoism, 84
  of laughing at Sheldon, 51–52, 63.
  See also disability
  of Nietzsche, 72
  and the social contract, 86–87
  See also ethics
morally permissible lying, 205–6
moral obligations
  of parents, 228–29
  in personal relationships, 228
moral truths, 134
mother-son relationships, 219–32
  and cognitive dissonance, 229–32
Howard and Mrs. Wolowitz, 223–25
Leonard and Beverly Hofstadter, 225–27
Raj and Mrs. Koothrappali, 219–21
Sheldon and Mary Cooper, 221–23
  and special obligations of parents, 227–29
Murdoch, Rupert, 31, 76
music, 14–16
mutual care, 235
name-calling, 74–75
natural order, 196–97
natural science, societal discourse about, 141
nature, state of, 86
neurobiology, 105–7, 110, 134–35
neuroscience, 108, 109
Newton, Sir Isaac, 131
Newtonian physics, 118
Nicomachean Ethics (Aristotle), 22
Nietzsche, Friedrich
  on exploitation, 71–72
  on good and evil, 72
  on lying, 206, 208
  on revenge, 73
Nimoy, Leonard, 18, 57, 240
noncontradiction, law of, 181
nonfunctional routines, 58–59
normalizing, 61–62
norms
  of conversation, 212, 213
  gender, 253
Nowitzki, Ramona, 88, 111
objectivity
  and tolerance, 199–200
  and what-we-have paradigm, 199
Office for Human Research Protections, 139
Old Testament, good and evil in, 69
once functional/nonfunctional routines, 58–59
ordinary language, 163, 168, 172
Orszag, Peter, 253
Overman, 72–73, 206
pain, 135
paradox
  and conceptual schemes, 193
  defined, 184
  wrongness, 182–84
parents
  moral obligations of, 227–29
  relationships of sons and mothers.
    See mother-son relationships
Parsons, Jim, 52, 178. See also Cooper, Sheldon
Patel, Dr., 145
patterns
  in Asperger’s syndrome, 57–58
  in the sciences, 107, 108–10
Pattinson, Robert, 253
Penny
  and arguing, 222
  on being stupid, 18
  and Beverly Hofstadter, 226
  and Dennis Kim, 94
  and entertainment, 14
and friendship, 21–23, 26, 28–31, 33
on geeky obsessions, 12
and gender theory, 244, 246, 248–50, 252, 253
and hedonism, 81–82
and Howard’s attitude toward women, 225
insecurity about education, 113
and language, 163–66, 168–70
laughing at, 63
Leonard’s lie to, 70
Leonard’s relationship with, 93, 115, 227, 232
and Leonard’s relationship with his mother, 227
and Leslie Winkle, 74
and life of the intellect, 10
and lying, 205–11, 213
and moral wrong, 73
and science, 101, 108, 117, 122, 123, 154, 156
and scientism, 129, 133, 135, 137–41
and Sheldon’s character, 17
and Sheldon’s conception of evil, 76, 77
and Sheldon’s disability, 55–57, 59–60
Sheldon’s friendship with, 233–43
and Sheldon’s illness, 221, 237
and Sheldon’s opinion of sex, 9
and Sheldon-Wheaton rivalry, 67
and the social contract, 86
and SPP, 102, 103
and tolerance, 189, 197, 199
and truth, 178, 182, 185–86, 188
and the use of technology, 38–42, 44–46
and virtuous action, 90, 91
perfect friendship, 28–33
performativity, 247–49
personal growth through difference, 233–43
friendship of Penny and Sheldon, 233–43
importance of difference in friendships, 238–40
and modern vs. classical friendships, 240–42
moral development through friendships, 242–43
philosophy, societal discourse about, 141
physics, 105, 106, 108
fundamental, 100, 105–10
fundamental laws of, 154
modern, 118
quantum, 118
theoretical work of, 118–19
physiology of belief, 134
Picard, Captain Jean-Luc, 67–68
picture theory of language, 162, 173
Plantinga, Alvin, 152–54
Plato, 10
on biological sex differences, 246
and ethical egoism, 83–84
on injustice, 227
on lying, 206
pleasure, 13
Aristotle’s view of, 90
and hedonism, 81–83
pleasure-based friendship, 23–25
Plimpton, Dr. Elizabeth, 250–51
pluralism, 190, 192, 198
pluralist religion, 148
Poetics (Aristotle), 14
poetry, 13–14, 16, 17
Politics (Aristotle), 14
politics, tolerance and, 190–91
Popper, Karl, 114, 117
possible worlds, 177–80
Power, Will to, 71–72
practical jokes, 209
prediction
as activity of science, 101–3
by inductive inference, 185
Priya. See Koothrappali, Priya
probability of life, 152–56
Professor Crawley, 151
pseudoscience, 140
psychological courage, 230–32
psychological egoism, 86–87
psychology, 105
Pullen, Stuart, 153
pure thought, 11
purpose of life, 14–16
Putman, Daniel, 230
quantification, 136
quantum gravity, 112–13, 121–26
loop, 112–13, 124–25
string theory, 112, 121–24
Philosophical Investigations (Ludwig Wittgenstein), 162–64
quantum mechanics, 121–23
quantum physics, 118

racism, 197
Raj. See Koothrappali, Rajesh (“Raj”)
Ramona Nowitzki, 88, 111
rationality
nonrational factors affecting, 186–88
and worldview, 191
realism, 199
reality
independent, 197–98
objective, 196
reasoning, Davidson’s approach to, 194
reductionism, 131–32
religion. See also God
biblical inerrancy, 146–47
Christianity, 146–47
Darwinian evolution vs., 152–54
differences in, 145–48
evil in the Judeo-Christian tradition,
69, 72, 77
Hinduism, 157
Judaism, 147
and Mary’s relationship with
Sheldon, 222–23
relationship between science and,
149–52, 156–57
and tolerance, 189–90, 192–94, 199,
201–2
religious realism, 199
The Republic (Plato), 83–84, 206, 246
revenge, 72–73
Ricoeur, Paul, 77
rightness. See truth
rituals, 60
romantic relationships, friendships
and, 239–40
roommate agreement
and Ramona Nowitzki, 111
as a social contract, 87–89
Rorty, Richard, 199, 200
Rostenkowski, Bernadette
and evolution, 155
and friendship, 32
and gender theory, 244, 249,
250, 252
and Howard’s hedonism, 82–83
and Howard’s relationship with his
mother, 224, 225
and how we should live, 8
and Mary Cooper, 152
and science, 108
and Sheldon’s 0-0-0-0 spot, 237
Sheldon’s friendship with, 238
and SPP, 102
routines, functional and nonfunctional,
58–59
Ryle, Gilbert, 207
Sagan, Carl, 140
sarcasm, 55–56
Schumacher, Joel, 66
science, 99–126
dark energy, 117–18
defense of, 140
distinct domains of, 104–6
defense of, 140
and empirical facts vs. values, 141
ethics and, 138–39
fundamental physics, 100, 106–10
gand unified theory, 107–8
pragmatic element in, 110–11
prediction as activity of, 101–3
proper domain of, 140
quantum gravity, 112–13, 121–26
relationship between religion and,
149–52, 156–57
theoretical discoveries in, 118–20
theoretical vs. experimental, 113–15,
123
and tolerance, 189–90, 192–94, 199,
201–2
and the truth, 134, 176–77
value of, 131
scientific inquiry, 104–7
scientific method, 113–18
scientific realism, 199
scientific truths, 134
scientism, 128–42
animosity associated with, 136–39
controversy over, 132–35
data in, 129–31
defined, 100, 131
fundamentalist, 100
and reductionism, 131–32
solutions to the problem of, 139–42
and tolerance, 198
Scott, Sir Walter, 208
The Second Sex (Simone de Beauvoir), 247
selective mutism (Raj), 61, 62, 146,
220–21
self-creation, 247, 248
self-deception, 208
sensual gratification, 82
sex, 9–10
  gender vs., 245–48
  and hedonism, 81–82
shared activity, 236
shared values, commitment to, 240–41
Sheldon. See Cooper, Sheldon
Sheldon Parking Principle (SPP), 102–3
Sherlock Holmes, 207
Silvers, Anita, 61
Skinner, B. F., 138
social awkwardness, 249
social constructivist model of
disability, 62
social context of language, 169–71
social contract, 85–89, 92
social conventions
defined, 212
lying as violation of, 211–15
social feelings, Sheldon’s experience
and expression of, 56
social function of language, 165–67
social impairment, 55–58
social science, societal discourse
about, 141
social skills, 45–46, 170
sociology, 105
Socrates, 10, 82
Sparks, Billy, 66
special sciences, 104, 105, 109–11
SPP (Sheldon Parking Principle), 102–3
Star Trek, 77, 206
Star Trek: The Next Generation, 65–67
state of nature, 86
Stephanie Barnett, 87, 227
stereotyped patterns, in Asperger’s
  syndrome, 57–58
stereotypes
  of femininity, 250–51
  gender, 246
  of real men, 252–53
Stoics, 10
string theory, 112, 121–24, 198
Stuart. See Bloom, Stuart
Studies in the Way of Words (Paul
  Grice), 212
syphilis experiment, 139

technology, 35–47
  balance in the use of, 42–46
  healthy use of, 36–38
  unhealthy use of, 38–40
  and virtual vengeance, 40–42
Theodicy, 68–71
Theodicy (Gottfried Leibniz), 68
thinking, as the function of humans,
  11. See also mental activity
Thus Spoke Zarathustra (Friedrich
  Nietzsche), 73
Toby, 175, 183–86
Todd. See Zarnecki, Todd
tolerance, 189–202
  and conceptual schemes, 193–95
  and objectivity, 199–200
  and politics, 190–91
  and truth, 195–200
  and worldview, 190–202
Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus (Ludwig
  Wittgenstein), 162, 163
Treatise of Human Nature (David
  Hume), 133
true friendship, 28–33, 240
truth(s), 175–88
  closeness to, 177–80
  and degrees of falsehood,
    176–77
  and inductive inference, 184–86
  and knowledge, 182–84
  and logic, 180–82
  and logical fallacies, 186–88
  moral vs. scientific or
    mathematical, 134
  and tolerance, 195–200
Tuskegee syphilis experiment, 139
tyranny, 191–92

Übermensch, 72, 206
Underhill, Dr. David, 28, 73, 252
unified field theory, 121–22
use-theory of language, 162–63, 173
utility-based friendship, 25–28

value judgments, 141
van Inwagen, Peter, 146–47, 156
vengeance
  moral blame for seeking, 72–73
  virtual, 40–42
video gaming, 39–40, 44
virtual vengeance, 40–42
virtue(s)
  of character, Sheldon’s lack of, 17
  and the good life, 89–93
  moderation for development of, 42–46
  virtuous action, 89–93
Voltaire, 69
webcam-ing, 36–38
Weinberg, Steven, 132
Wesley Crusher. See Crusher, Ensign Wesley
what-we-have paradigm, 199–201
Wheaton, Wil
  as evil, 66–69, 71–73, 75–78
  and lying, 204
  and Sheldon’s disability, 17, 55
Whedon, Joss, 76–77
Whewell, William, 131
Wil. See Wheaton, Wil
Will to Power, 71–72
The Will to Power (Friedrich Nietzsche), 206
Wilson, Edward O., 133
Wimsatt, William, 53
Winkle, Leslie
  as evil, 74–77
  and friendship, 27–28
  and gender theory, 244, 246, 251
  Howard’s relationship with, 235
  and Leonard, 123, 124, 126
  Leonard’s manipulation by, 227
  and loop quantum gravity, 124–26, 132
  and quantum gravity, 112–13, 177
  and science, 100–101, 105, 106
  and scientism, 129
  and Sheldon’s disability, 55
  and tolerance, 198
  and truth, 186–87
  and virtuous action, 91–92
Wittgenstein, Ludwig, 161–74
Wolowitz, Howard
  and arguing, 222
  and Beverly Hofstadter, 225–26
  and Dennis Kim, 94
  educational level of, 74
ethical egoism of, 84–85
and friendship, 21, 24–28, 32
and gender theory, 244, 249–52
and the good life, 80
hedonism of, 81–83
and how we should live, 9
and language, 164, 166
laughing at, 63
Leslie’s relationship with, 235
and lying, 204
and Mary’s religious beliefs, 145
opinions of, 151
relationship with mother, 223–25, 230, 231
and science, 101, 120
and scientism, 128–30, 134, 136, 137
and Sheldon’s disability, 55
Sheldon’s friendship with, 55
and Sheldon’s return from Texas, 223
and Sheldon’s selfishness, 18
and tolerance, 197, 199
and truth, 175, 180, 182–84
and the use of technology, 35, 38, 39, 41, 44–46
and the value of sex, 10
and virtuous action, 90, 91
work of, 12, 99, 113
Wolowitz, Mrs.
  and arguing, 222
  and Howard’s hedonism, 82, 83
  Howard’s relationship with, 223–25, 230, 231
women. See gender theory; mother-son relationships; individual women
worldview
  and conceptual schemes, 193–95
  and objectivity, 199–200
  and tolerance, 190–202
  and truth, 195–98
wrongness. See truth
wrongness paradox, 182–84
Zack. See Johnson, Zack
Zarnecki, Todd, 41, 42, 228
Zuckerberg, Mark, 253