

How we speak of Knowing How
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Is knowing how to swim, or knowing how to ride a bicycle, a kind of propositional knowledge, that is, a kind of knowing that something is the case? Philosophers since Gilbert Ryle have generally assumed otherwise. However, in English, ascriptions of knowing how to do something appear to be embedded questions, which suggests an affirmative answer to the question. But in other languages, it is less obvious that ascriptions of knowing how to do something take the form of embedded questions. In this talk, we look at a swath of cross-linguistic data to see whether the weight of evidence best supports the view that when we speak in human first-languages of knowing how to do something, we are ascribing knowledge of propositions.