

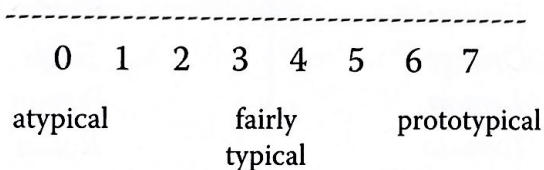
T and L #2
Activity: Categories and Prototypes

To illustrate the idea of categorical and prototypical thinking, you might try an activity like the one below, which we adapted from work by Eleanor Rosch and Carolyn Mervis in 1975. You could do it orally, on paper, or through a PowerPoint presentation.

I. Write the first two physical characteristics that come to mind when you think of each of the following:

- Fruit
- Bird
- Crime
- Sport
- Vegetable
- Vehicle

II. Rate each of the following as to how typical it is of the given category:



- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| a) Apple as a fruit _____ | |
| Tomato as a fruit _____ | What is the prototypical fruit? _____ |
| b) Robin as a bird _____ | |
| Penguin as a bird _____ | What is the prototypical bird? _____ |
| c) Robbery as a crime _____ | |
| Forgery as a crime _____ | What is the prototypical crime? _____ |
| d) Soccer as a sport _____ | |
| Rugby as a sport _____ | What is the prototypical sport? _____ |
| e) Onion as a vegetable _____ | |
| Red pepper as a vegetable _____ | What is the prototypical vegetable? _____ |
| f) Jeep as a vehicle _____ | |
| Elevator as a vehicle _____ | What is the prototypical vehicle? _____ |