# Constraints

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Constraints are a form of restriction or limitation.  They account for the reason something cannot be done or done in a specific way.  Wikipedia quotes constraint as "something that plays the part of a physical, social or financial restriction."

Physical Constraints are physical reasons or limitations why something will not work, when items are physically compatible.

~ This jar (even though the opening is closer through perspective) is a small jar and will not work physically with the large wide mouth lid.

~ The iphone4 cable will not fit into my USB connector on my computer, it is physically impossible.

Cultural Constraints are a difference in normal social behavior or if someone were behaving oddly.

~ Here are two place settings for two cultures.  One person may not know what to do with one of the sets of chopsticks while someone else may not know how to use the multiple forks and spoons.

~ Where I live in North Idaho, it is common for drivers to flash other drivers with headlights if there is danger or deer on the road ahead.  This would not be the case in other cultures or places.

Semantic Constraints pertain to the situation and action taken.

~ Here is a picture of my son playing a computer game.  He would not be successful playing this game if he were facing the other direction or on another screen.  (If he leaves for a few seconds his character dies.  Yes, long time on one game!)

~ It is not easy or semantically correct to read a book upside down.



Logical Constraints are based upon what logically goes where. The pieces must logically go in a certain way/place.

~ This is a laptop that had been dismantled.  My husband will have to remember how it goes together piece by piece, nothing missing, in order to get it reassembled properly.

~ Here is a rack from my photo machine that has lost a part on it, the plastic cotter washer.