

The **Ontological Argument** is just a fancy title for an easy argument. Everything goes into one of three categories: Stuff that actually exists, Stuff that might exist, or Stuff that can't exist. Cats, trees, baseballs, etc. are things that actually exist. Cats, trees, baseballs, Superman, and flying horses might exist. If you can think of something, that thing either actually exists or might exist. Stuff that cannot exist includes things that we cannot even think of, like square triangles. No one can draw or even think of a square triangle.

Can you think of God? Sure you can, even atheists who do not believe in God can think of God. Since you can think of God, God cannot be in the "Stuff that can't exist" category and is either in the "Stuff that actually exists" category or the "Stuff that might exist" category. God either must actually exist even if people don't believe in him or God cannot exist even if people do believe in him. The reason that God actually exists, is because he is the GCB. Remember that the GCB must be All-Knowing, All-Powerful, All-Good, eternal, and **necessary**. Being necessary means that something either must exist or cannot exist. A square triangle necessarily cannot exist. The GCB is obviously conceivable, and if there is no possible world that prevents him from existing, then he is necessary, which means he actually exists in all worlds, including the real world.

- A. Everything either Actually Exists, Might Exist, or Can't Exist.
- B. If you can think of it, it either Actually Exists or Might Exist.
- C. We can think of God, so God either Actually Exists or Might Exist.
- D. If something is necessary it either Actually Exists or Can't Exist.
- E. God is necessary, but was already eliminated him from the Can't Exist category, so
 God Actually Exists.

Actually Exists
 (can be conceived and examples are around)



Might Exist
 (can be conceived and may or may not have examples around. If no examples, then it is imaginary)



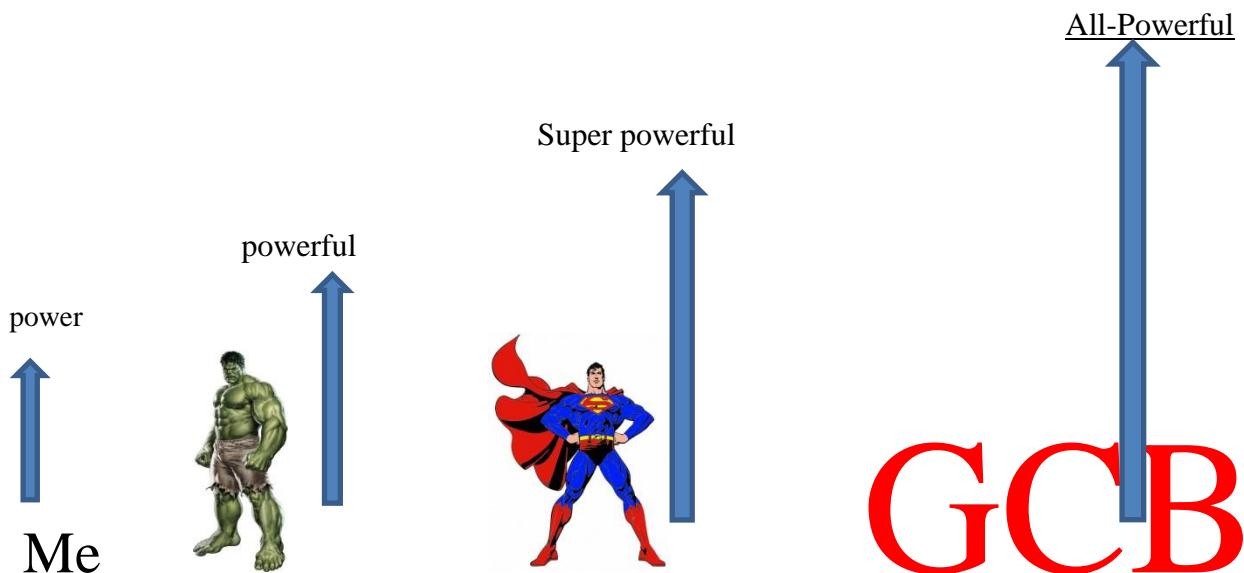
Can't Exist
 (cannot be conceived so no possible examples at all, impossible)

Square triangle

If it can be conceived, it.....	Actually Exists	Might Exist	Can't Exist
If it is necessary, it.....	Actually Exists	Might Exist	Can't Exist
God can be conceived and is necessary, so God.....	<u>Actually Exists</u>	Might Exist	Can't Exist

The nature of God. The word “God” is not God’s name. “God” is a title or an office that someone holds. The only one who can rightly hold that title/office is the Greatest Conceivable Being (GCB). “God” is shorthand for the best being anyone could even think of. God has to be the GCB. After all, if there was a possible being better than God, then God would not really be God. The being we thought was God, would really be less-than-God, and the being better than him would be the real God. “God” is the title given to the top, best, greatest possible being.

The GCB has a number of properties, or qualities, or aspects that make him great. Even if you’ve never heard of God, you can know that one being is better than another if that being is more knowledgeable, more powerful, and more loving than another being. Think about it like this: I am really strong, but the Hulk is greater than I am because he is stronger. He is more powerful, but Superman is way stronger than the Hulk, so Superman is greater than Hulk. He is more powerful. But if there were a being stronger than Superman, that being would be greater in strength than Superman. Well, I am more powerful than you, Hulk is more powerful than I am, Superman is more powerful than Hulk, but the GCB is All-Powerful. He has to be. You can’t be more powerful than All-Powerful, so the greatest being would have to be All-Powerful. It is the most power any being can have. It is the same with knowledge and love. The GCB must be All-Knowing, and All-Good.



The GCB must also be eternal. Have you ever wondered who made God? No one! God must be the eternal, uncreated being. The reason for this is simple. If someone made God, then God had a start—he would have been created, and no creature is ever as great as his creator, so then God would not be the

real God. The thing that made God would be the real God. But then you might ask, “Well, who made the real God, the thing that made God?” If something made the thing that made God, then that thing would be greater. But who made that thing? You see where I am going. There has to be a starting point, otherwise there would be an infinite chain of makers, which is impossible. Since it is greater not to have been made than to have been made, the GCB must be eternal.

The GCB must also be necessary. This means that God has to exist. He can’t not exist. You and I exist in the real world, but we could also exist in a world very similar to this one, but we could not exist in a world in which our parents did not exist, or in a world in which there was no air. We can only exist in a very small percentage of possible worlds, but Superman can exist in many more worlds than us, so he is greater. The GCB would be able to exist in all possible worlds. This means that there is no possible world that prevents God from existing. You can’t come up with a possible world in which the GCB cannot exist. It is impossible than he not exist. Finally, the GCB is triune—he is three persons that are one being. There is only one God, but that one God must be three in one so that he can experience perfect relationships and love before he created anything. If he had to create something to love, then he could not be the GCB. He would not be as great as a being who is loving within himself. God is the Trinity.

