

What I Would Ask David Lewis About Counterfactuals If I Could

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ABSTRACT

There are many philosophical questions that I wish I could ask David Lewis. Several of them concern counterfactuals. They include the following:

- You came very close to the view that most counterfactuals are false at points in your writings. Why didn't you take the extra step and endorse the view?
- You were famously a contextualist about counterfactuals, yet that seems in tension with various things that you say. How much of a contextualist were you?
- You were not a contextualist at all about indicative conditionals. Why did you give such different analyses of counterfactuals and indicative conditionals?
- I also have some questions about the logic of counterfactuals, concerning their antecedents. What do you make of objections to your treatment of:
 - antecedent strengthening
 - simplification of disjunctive antecedents
 - counterfactuals with true antecedents
 - counterfactuals with impossible antecedents?

I did get to ask David why he liked Australia so much, and I will share his answer.