

TRANSCRIPT WITH COMMENTARY
Do I Really Have Internal Monologue?
Ryan Langdon Interview 4:
DES Sampling Day 4

Below in black is a word-for-word transcript of the June 11 interview with Ryan Langdon that is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/Et-QQr6EbX8>. In green are comments about and explanations of the Descriptive Experience Sampling process. If you have corrections, suggestions, or questions, please post them as YouTube comments.

RTH = Russ Hurlburt

AK = Alek Krumm

Ryan = Ryan Langdon

0:00 Ryan: We all set.

0:01 RTH: I'm ready. You're recording. I'm recording. So I think we're good.

SAMPLE 4.1 DISCUSSION STARTS HERE

0:05 Ryan: Alright. Um, alright. So for the first one, um, I was thinking about splitting notes. So our PowerPoint today for lecture, it was 200 slides, 200 slides long. So I was looking to like split the duties with someone to, to outline it. Uh, and it beeped when I was thinking about this. And it beeped, when I was saying, "I'll do the first half of this lecture if you do the second." Um, and I slightly saw my friend that I was thinking about sending this to, um. Nothing like prominent that I could like pick out, but I just knew that it was, it was her. Um, and I was looking at the text box in Zoom. Um, when I, when this all happened, like I was going to message her.

1:02 RTH: So is, is the sentence "I'll do the first half of this lecture if you do the second," is that entirely spoken or are you speaking out loud to her?

1:11 Ryan: That's innerly spoken.

1:13 RTH: Okay. And, and you see her, I'm understanding, but only sort of dimly or vaguely or something like that?

1:20 Ryan: Yeah, it's almost not even, I was almost going to not even tell you I, I saw it, because like, it was so, I knew it was a visual, but like, I, it, it, there was nothing that I could pick out. I just knew it was her.

1:34 RTH: And so how is this different than, or more so, or less so or whatever, then the white coat video, white, white coat...

- 1:42 Ryan: Similar to the white coat except that visual was much more discernible. Like I could tell that it was a white coat. Um, it probably... Oh, go ahead.
- 1:53 RTH: On a continuum of clarity from, I don't see at all to I see totally clearly, the white coat is over here somewhere [gestures a quarter of the way across the interval] and the current video is over here somewhere [gestures close to the end of the interval]. Is that, is that the deal?
- 2:04 Ryan: Yeah. And the parking lot is, is on the higher end of that spectrum.
- 2:11 RTH: Right. Right. Okay. So what, so what... (I'm gonna make sure I understand). So I'm, I'm gathering that I see her. There's no question about it that I, in my, in my imagination see her, but the differentiation of it or the details of it is very, very unarticulated, I guess you could say.
- 2:32 Ryan: Yeah. I think it just beeped maybe when it just started to happen. So like, I wasn't thinking about this for a long time. So, um, it probably like snapped me out of it when the beep went off.
- 2:46 RTH: Okay. And I, and I acknowledge that that's quite possible. Uh, but that is a theory that I would like us to bracket, of course. [Ryan: (smiles) (inaudible)] And I also think, I also think it is quite possible that you just don't, that there are times when you have an image that is not articulated and it just *stays* not articulated. And when you're done with it, you're done with it *because* you know who you're talking about--there's no real reason that you need to see her. So as long as you see a bit of her, then that maybe is good enough.
- 3:15 Ryan: Yeah. Let's bracket that. 'Cause it happens again. I think on beep three, a similar situation happens.
- 3:20 RTH: All right. Then, then about the speaking, "I'll do the first half." That, that's, that's an entire sentence? You, you experienced yourself as saying this whole deal?
- 3:30 Ryan: I'm saying it. Yeah. Almost like I'm saying it *to her*. It wasn't like I was thinking about typing it. It was just like, I was daydreaming about asking her.
- 3:41 RTH: And so you, your experience is of saying this to her. And you say it, I gather, I'm gathering, quite differentiatedly. You've got all the words and inflection and all that stuff? [Ryan: Yeah.] And you *see* her, but without differentiation. [Ryan: Mm hm.] Okay. And, and do those two things seem like (maybe this might be an impossible question), but seem like part of the same experience? It's like, I'm, I'm saying this to her, [Ryan: Yeah.] but I see her less clearly than I am speaking to her.
- 4:13 Ryan: Yeah. It's *definitely* that. That's why it's like, it was hard to explain that. Like, I couldn't technically visually see her, but I knew I was talking to her.

- 4:25 RTH: Now that's, that sounds slightly different from the way I understood it from before. So are you technically *not* seeing her? And yet I know I'm seeing her? Or am I *seeing* her, but the details are not differentiated?
- 4:39 Ryan: I don't see her at all, if that's what you're asking, but look, I know it *is* her. Um, but there is, there was like a slight visual, but like I had no idea what it was. Like it, but for some reason that visual, I knew that it was supposed to be representing her. And then I was talking to that.
- 4:39 Russ comments: Ryan has been very ambiguous about whether his experience at the moment of the beep was visual. Here's a recap (for rhetorical convenience, let's call the friend "Caroline"):
- (0:37) I slightly saw my friend.
- (1:26) I knew it was a visual, but like, I, it, it, there was nothing that I could pick out. I just knew it was her.
- (4:17) I couldn't technically visually see her, but I knew I was talking to her.
- (4:39) I don't see her at all, if that's what you're asking, but look, I know it is her.
- (4:48) There was like a slight visual.
- Some would use interchanges like this to criticize DES: If you can't decide whether Caroline was or was not innerly seen, then *the method* must be worthless!
- Some would criticize Ryan: If you can't say whether you did or did not innerly see Caroline, then *you* must be incompetent!
- We think neither criticism is apt, and that both arise from the same presupposition—that inner seeings are clear and articulated. We think that inner seeing is *not* always a clear and articulated phenomenon, and that Ryan is doing a good job of attempting to describe a present-but-pretty-darn-inchoate experience. It is our job to support him in his discovery of whether he is *seeing Caroline*, even if the seen Caroline is inchoate, while keeping his and our own presuppositions at bay.
- 5:02 RTH: So it *is* that I see her, but it's a very, very undifferentiated. [Ryan: Yeah.] It's not just that I *know* I'm talking to her with no visualization at all. [Ryan: Mm hm.] I'm not trying to put words into your mouth. I'm just trying to understand what ...
- 5:17 Ryan: Yeah. No, you're correct. [RTH: Okay.]
- 5:21 AK: So this is a visual experience. It's just that I don't see really *anything* clearly.
- 5:27 Ryan: Yeah. I, I would say that it's more verbal than it is visual. Um, but they seem to be connected.
- 5:39 AK: As in the verbal part is more prominent, [Ryan: Mm hm.] more important or whatever, in my experience. [Ryan: Yeah.] Okay.
- 5:45 RTH: 60-40 ish? 90-10 ish?
- 5:48 Ryan: Um, I would say 80-20.

- 5:55 RTH: And is, is that 80-20 prominence somehow different from just the clarity of it? Words are certainly clearer. So is this 80-20 measuring the clarity? Or is it somehow measuring the prominence of it, separate from the clarity?
- 6:15 Ryan: Is it possible that it wasn't clear because it wasn't prominent?
- 6:20 RTH: Anything is possible.
- 6:23 Ryan: That's, that's what it, it seemed like to me, if I would describe it.
- 6:28 RTH: Okay. Alright. Then I think I'm good.
- 6:36 AK: Was there also, um, Ryan, something in your experience about the Zoom text box? Or was that just context, background?
- 6:44 Ryan: Um, it wasn't like part of the experience when the beep went off. Well, I looked at the text box and then I thought that, and then the beep went off. So...
- 7:00 AK: And is the textbox still present to you in any way? Like, are you seeing it? Or I saw it and now I'm into my daydream about asking the girl, and I'm not really into the box anymore.
- 7:10 Ryan: I don't, I don't remember.
- 7:14 AK: Okay. Regardless, it's not prominent. Your eyes are aimed at it, but maybe I'm seeing it, maybe not, it sounds like it. [Ryan: Yeah.]
- 7:21 AK: Okay then I'm good.

SAMPLE 4.2 DISCUSSION STARTS HERE

- 7:22 RTH: Me too. Number two.
- 7:23 AK: Number two.
- 7:25 Ryan: Number two, the beep went off like 30 seconds after the first one. Um, and it beeped when I was like scrambling to find the tab on my computer to type in what happened in the first beep. Um, so I don't really remember much that was happening. I don't think much was going on other than the fact that I was like, switching screens. Do you have a Mac by any chance? You could like slide to the next screen. I had it like on another um, I don't know how to explain it if you don't have a Mac, but there's like two screens and you could slide over to another one. Um, and I was in the middle of doing that when it beeped.
- 8:03 AK: And so sometimes when people get beeped, so shortly after it's seems sort of impossible for them to grasp their experience. Is, is that happening for you here?

- 8:16 Ryan: Yeah, I don't have, I didn't have like a strong, um, sense of what was happening when the beep went off.
- 8:23 RTH: Yeah. I'd say we had to skip it and go on to beep three. [Ryan: I agree.] And, and this is not a fault of yours. If anybody's, it's a fault of mine. I could have programmed those beepers to have a longer inter-[inaudible], and I, and I just, I've never gotten around to doing it.
- 8:37 Ryan: I mean, it very well could have been nothing was going on and I was just like doing things, but I honestly have no idea. It happened so fast. [RTH: Yeah.]

SAMPLE 4.3 DISCUSSION STARTS HERE

- 8:45 AK: Okay. No worries. Let's let's look at number three, then.
- 8:48 Ryan: Number three is almost identical to beep one, where I was thinking about splitting notes again, except this was a different friend, um, that I was creating a scenario. As in, as like, if the first person, the first person like fell through like plans to, to split the notes, um, and it beeped when I was saying, "Would you still be interested in splitting notes?" Because we had, we'd had talked about it the day before. Um, so it was like a backup plan. Um, and I was staring at the PowerPoint of a picture, but the picture wasn't really in the footprints of my consciousness, as you say, um, if at all. Um, and there's no visual of him, like it was in the first one. This was just strictly words.
- 9:41 AK: Okay. So again, here I'm, imaginarily talking to my friend. But in this one, I don't see my friend like I did in beep one.
- 9:49 Ryan: Yep. [Alek: Is that right?] Yeah. It was more like knowing matter of fact that it was, I was thinking about that.
- 9:58 AK: Okay. And the words here are, "Would you still be interested in splitting notes?" Is that right? [Ryan: Mm hm.] Innerly spoken, I'm understanding [Ryan: Mm hm.] with inflection, normal voice, ...
- 10:11 Ryan: Normal voice, same one as, as the last one--as the first beep.
- 10:15 AK: And in the first beep we said that it was, your experience was of talking to the girl. [Ryan: Mm hm.] Here is your experience of talking to someone? [Ryan: Mm hm.] So they're, they're both very directed. This is like an imaginary, as if I'm talking to him now. [Ryan: Yeah.] Okay. Um, is there anything different about how the words are experienced between this and the first? I mean, different words, surely, but...
- 10:44 Ryan: No.
- 10:49 AK: Okay. And here is there is your friend present to you at all? Aside from the fact that the words are for him?
- 10:57 Ryan: He wasn't, not like present as in *there*, but I knew who my words were directed to.

- 11:04 AK: But I don't, I don't see him. I don't, I'm not thinking his name or something.
- 11:09 Ryan: No, but it is something that I texted him eventually. Like I texted those exact words to him.
- 11:18 AK: And then you said you're something you're staring at a picture on the PowerPoint.
- 11:22 Ryan: Yeah. So like I was paying attention to lecture, *trying* to pay attention to lecture. Um, and there's a picture on one of the slides and I was looking at that, and then I drifted off, thought that, and then it beeped. So it wasn't really in my, my experience directly.
- 11:40 AK: Okay. So I *am* in fact staring at it, but it's not really reaching my [Ryan: Mm hm.] experience.
- 11:54 AK: Okay. Then I think I'm good. So really, it sounds like the bulk, or maybe I guess like the entirety of my experience at this moment is saying, innerly saying to my friend, "Would you still be interested in splitting notes?"
- 12:06 Ryan: Yeah. It was like, daydreamy kind of where, like I wasn't present in the moment that I should have been present in.
- 12:14 RTH: So I do have one, or a couple of questions. So this experience I'm gathering is different from the first beep in the... Well you tell me how, how is this experience different from the first beep?
- 12:29 Ryan: It's very, very similar except the other one may or may not have had a visual attached to it. Um, but I was still like speaking directly and it was, it was an idea that popped into my head. It was something that I had to do. Like I was going to talk to them anyways about this. So just like a reminder to do it. That's like how it popped into my head. Like, [inaudible]
- 12:55 RTH: So, so we're back down to the *may or may not* deal here.
- 12:59 Ryan: [smiles] [inaudible] Sorry.
- 13:04 RTH: So it seems like we started out with the *may* and then we got to the.... We started out with the *yes*. And then we got to the *no*. And then we came back to the *mostly yes* when we were talking about the first beep. [Ryan: It's, it's...] Are we changing our minds about that?
- 13:04 Russ comments: Note the neutrality of this statement. RTH is clearly trying to get the sequence right and is clearly inviting Ryan to alter course if required. That reflects the essence of the bracketing of presuppositions. The object is to help Ryan describe his experience with fidelity, regardless of whether Ryan's descriptions happen to align (or not) with RTH's sensitivities.
- 13:18 Ryan: About if they're similar?

- 13:22 RTH: If the, whether the first beep involved a *seeing* experience.
- 13:26 Ryan: It *did* involve a seeing experience, but like, it was so loosely there that like, I can't, I it's hard for me to describe it. Like I know for a fact it was there, but it was, it wasn't super present.
- 13:26 Russ comments: That was a very clear, straightforward, unequivocal response about a fine point of experience. As a general rule, if the interviewer asks a fair, nonleading, level-playing-field question (which we think RTH 13:04 was), and the participant gives a mostly declarative response whose details reveal that he understands what is being asked, then we think there is reason to credit the response.
- 13:38 RTH: Okay. And that, and that kind of experience was *not* there in the present beep?
- 13:43 Ryan: No, but it very, it very may, well could have been.
- 13:48 RTH: As a logical thing, but not as an experiential thing?
- 13:51 Ryan: Not as an experiment, as an experient... [laughs] yeah..
- 13:54 RTH: So, so I guess I'm asking this line of questions, is that at least in part, because I want to double back to your important question from *last* time, which was like, well, *what is experience?* [Ryan: Mm hm.] And, and the answer is well, *seeing your friend* in the one situation is experience, and the reason that, you know, it's experiences because in this beep, which is otherwise apparently pretty much identical, it *didn't* involve that. And so the, the question of *what is experience* is, is of something which I think is *directly apprehendable by Ryan*, even, even when the experience is not a very well differentiated one. And yet when he's careful about it, I think he's saying, *there was a visual experience here*.
- 13:54 Russ comments: I'm no Jung scholar, much less an aficionado, so you should consider what I am about to say as more metaphorically descriptive than theoretically factual. But Jung held that there were frequent "meaningful coincidences" or "synchronicities" that populate the human condition. We are in the midst of one such synchronicity, and I have noted, casually and unsystematically, that in my DES explorations such synchronicities seem to be more frequent than might be expected. Here, in the previous sampling day we raised with nearly excruciating energy the question of *what is experience*, and now, for a Jungian or whatever reason, we are being presented with a perfect perspective from which Ryan can answer that question for himself. We have two samples that are identical except that one of them includes a tiny bit of something that the other does not: a bit of almost pure visual experience—not cluttered by the thing seen and yet apprehended as visual experience.
- I'm a very skeptical guy, but I've seen more than my share (as it seems to me) of such perfectly tailored experiences that answer a recent and specifically posed question.

- 14:43 Ryan: Yeah. So is it what's the question? Is there a question?
- 14:48 RTH: This isn't a question. This is a commentary. [Ryan: Okay.] The commentary is: you wanted to know *what is experience*? And, and this is an instance of it.
- 14:58 Ryan: Okay! And I think that the first, like I said, the first one, I *say* that there's a visual, there *was* something there. It's just, it was, it was not prominent. It, it was more vocal just like this one, except there's no picture. So I guess in comparison, they're both super vocal, like, um, um,
- 15:25 RTH: I'm totally accepting that. But the part of the part that I want to call attention to is the, when you say with what seems like apparent conference, well, "there *was* something there," that is your experience talking to you, saying, "y'know, you can't just say, well, you know, it wasn't there because *it was there*." [Ryan: Mm hm. (nods affirmatively) Mm hm.] But I'm, I'm ready to move on to number four. I don't want, I don't want to make too big a deal about that, except that in, in the business that we are in, there are a lot of people who wonder, what is it? Is this stuff called, called *experience* really a thing? And the answer is, I think it is. And the reason that I think it is, is for this kind of deal. Even, even when experience is a vague or undifferentiated thing, yet there's still something there that you can't just say, well, you know, it wasn't *nothing*. It was *something*.
- 16:19 Ryan: Yeah. There's always something more additional things that could be like added to my thought process. I feel like there's, there's a lot of different ways that things present to themselves, present themselves.
- 16:35 RTH: Well, that, I think that's true as a generality, but not as a specificity. [Ryan: Mm hm.] For example, I think about beep number one, I could ask, well, where are you hearing Beethoven's ninth symphony in your imagination? And I'm guessing you would say, well, heck no! [inaudible] do it this experience. I didn't experience *that*!
- 16:54 Ryan: Do you experience that? [laughs]
- 16:57 RTH: Sometimes!
- 16:59 Ryan: What do *you* experience, Dr. Hurlburt? [RTH: I'm sorry?] What do *you* experience?
- 17:03 RTH: Well, most of the time I'm just thinking about other people's experience. But the point that I'm trying to make here is that you have what I think is a pretty stubborn (and I mean that in a positive way).... What, what presents itself as experience is *not just anything*, it is *this* specific thing and *not* that other specific thing. [Ryan: Mm hm. I agree.] And that in my business is a big deal. And I think also in your life, it's a big deal, but that's a different story. For you to, for you to know what is in your experience and what is not in your experience, I'm guessing, is a important thing for you.
- 17:03 Russ comments: I don't consider myself in a position to judge what is good for anyone, so I hedge that statement with "I think" and "I'm guessing." But *know thyself* has a long and central tradition in many philosophical and religious points of view.

17:44 Ryan: I mean, I, I'm just trying to do the best possible job. I can to explain everything for your guys' sake.

17:49 RTH: I'm with ya! Let's go on to number four.

SAMPLE 4.4 DISCUSSION STARTS HERE

17:52 Ryan: Alright. Um, we're... So the lecture is three hours long. So halfway through, we get like a 10-minute break. Um, and everyone like shuts off their camera on their, like, y'know what I'm saying? Um, so when they go to, they go away, they shut their camera off. And the beeper went off when we were about to go on break, but someone asked a question and he was answering a question that kind of seemed important for the test. Um, and I like expanded the window to see how many people like left and we're not here for that. Um, and I expanded the window and I was looking at, uh, the boxes and they turn gray, if you shut it off. And I was just looking at that. I wasn't really thinking about anything verbal. I was just curious about who was there and who was not, not specific people, just if people left and were missing it in general.

18:58 RTH: So does this seem like a thinking thing? Like *I wonder how many people have left?* Or does this seem like I *have wondered* about that and *now* I am just in a visual thing: I see some gray boxes and some picture boxes.

19:14 Ryan: Um, it's, it's a wonder thing, but it's, there's no words attached to it or anything. It was just like recalling facts, like you said, it's just that's I knew what I was doing in that moment. Like I wasn't thinking about anything else. I was just expanding the window and staring at the screen.

19:38 RTH: So that to my ear sounds like sort of two different kinds of things, which I would like us to sort through. So one was, *I am wondering*, which would be a cognitive experience: that's, I'm, I experienced myself as wondering in an inchoate kind of way more or less like the seeing of beep number one was an inchoate kind of seeing. But it's a think-y kind of a thing: *I wonder about that*. That's one thing. And another possibility is: I, I did in the, in the past, a few seconds ago, wonder, and *now* I'm just expanding the window and seeing what's there. And the wondering is an over with and done deal.

20:21 Ryan: Uh, it was the first one. Because I was expanding the window and I was looking at all the boxes. So obviously I had intention. Like I knew what I was doing. Like I said, I have trouble explaining things that are not visual or verbal. So it is a think-y process that I knew what I was doing.

20:43 RTH: And, and the *knowing what I'm doing* is in my direct experience in the same way as my seeing of the first beep was in my direct experience?

20:51 Ryan: [nods affirmatively] Yes.

20:53 RTH: Okay. And, and you're right, that's a hard thing to describe. And, and also, I think it's an *important* thing to describe. [Ryan: Yeah.] So, so what we have here is a thought

process that is pretty clearly a thought *process*. [Ryan nods affirmatively] It doesn't happen to be in words and pictures, which makes it hard to describe, but it is nonetheless a thought process. And as, at the same time, presumably as a result of this thought process, but, but at the same time, I'm opening, I'm expanding the window to see what the answer is.

20:53 Russ comments: So why is it important to discover whether Ryan's experience is or is not think-y? For the same reason that *know thyself* is important. If Ryan's experience is stubborn in the sense that it was what it was regardless of whether we describe it with fidelity, then in a fundamental sense there is a better and a worse answer to whether Ryan's experience at this beep was think-y. We are trying to keep our description aligned with the better answer.

21:26 Ryan: Yeah. I wasn't even listening to what my professor was saying. I was just, I was more focused on who was there then rather than the content of what he was saying [pause] as well.

21:45 RTH: And, and I guess I don't really even know whether I need to know the answer to this question, but so is, is the deal something like I'm thinking, well, this is an important question—I wonder how many people have left before they're going to hear the answer to it. Is that the...

21:58 Ryan: That's the rationale behind it. [RTH: Yeah.] [inaudible] I mean, I missed it myself! [all laugh].

22:12 RTH: The irony of the whole deal!

22:12 Ryan: Welcome to my life! [Alek: That's great!]

22:15 RTH: So I think I'm good.

SAMPLE 4.5 DISCUSSION STARTS HERE

22:17 AK: Me too. Number five.

22:21 Ryan: Um, so my professor was talking about something that was on the slide and I was typing something while he was talking about it. And as soon as I switched back to, uh, the video of like the PowerPoint, he jumped the next slide. So I, I saw quickly what he was talking about, their def, three definitions for three different things. And I didn't know what they were because I didn't have time to read it. So I scanned in my book and the section that we were on. And I didn't know, even know what I was looking for, but I was scanning the section, like skimming it to see if like anything would pop up, um, to like jog my memory of what he was talking about. Uh, and then the beeper went off when I was scanning the page.

23:16 AK: And so is it the *scanning*, is it your *scanning* that is caught in flight?

- 23:21 Ryan: Yes. Yeah. I'm not like reading in any specific order. I'm just like, you know how, like when you look at a menu, no one really reads it straight down. I was kind of doing that, like jumping around, looking for a keyword that would, that would pop up.
- 23:37 AK: Mm hm. And is what you're looking for specified at all. [Ryan: No.] Like, do you know? Not, not even, there's not like a word I'm looking for or a color or a header or something.
- 23:47 Ryan: No, and I knew I would have remembered if, if I saw it, um, I still don't even remember what it was. I haven't gone back and looked at the PowerPoint. Um, but when I was, I was scanning, hoping that one of the words would, would jog my memory.
- 24:02 AK: Mm hm. So I'm scanning. And presumably when I get to something that seems related to this, I'm going to stop. [Ryan: Yeah.] But I'm not scanning *for* anything in particular.
- 24:13 Ryan: No, I, I didn't know what I was looking for. I was waiting for something to jog my memory.
- 24:19 AK: Mm hm. And is scanning a visual phenomenon? Like it's really more about my eyes meeting the page and looking around? Or is it, is this like a think-y thing like in the last beep?
- 24:31 Ryan: It was more like, if you see like, um... It's, it's like, I'm looking for like a sh shapes in a group of other shapes. I wasn't like reading the words individually. The words didn't really mean anything to me, um, individually. Um, but like I knew that if I saw this word, it would've jogged my memory. [Alek: Okay.] Does that make sense?
- 24:56 AK: I think so. I'm understanding that to mean, like, this is really pretty much a visual thing. This is a *looking* kind of thing. And when I see it I'll stop. [Ryan: Mm hm.] But I don't have some cognition about what I'm looking for, or the word or the concept, or like, oh shit! Why did he change the slide? Or nothing like that?
- 25:14 Ryan: Mm hm. Exactly.
- 25:15 AK: Okay. And is there anything else in your experience, like I assume the lecture is still ongoing. Er, is any of that getting in at this moment?
- 25:23 Ryan: No, not really. [Alek: Okay.] Nothing that I remember specifically.
- 25:31 AK: Then I think I'm good.

SAMPLE 4.6 DISCUSSION STARTS HERE

- 25:32 RTH: I'm good. Number six.
- 25:35 Ryan: Okay. There's a lot going on here in six. Um, so we we're looking at, we're learning about a disease that causes your skin to turn orange--like it looks like an orange peel. Um, and it, it made me think about my grandma, who I just visited the other day, who

showed me like a lesion on her leg. Um, and it looked like something, uh, called actinic keratosis. And when the beeper went off, I was daydreaming about sending a picture to my friend who's like a (she's not a dermatologist, but she's in PA school as well) who's really good at dermatology to see if she agreed. And during the beep, I was saying, "Do you think this is AK?" (As in actinic keratosis.) Um, with a visual of me in first person looking at the lesion on my grandma's leg. Um, it was like a memory visual, 'cause it was the exact same, like it looked exactly the same as when I saw it with my own eyes live the other day. Um, so just to like recap, 'cause that was a little, that wasn't organized, um, I was saying, uh, "Do you think it's AK?" while I had a visual of me actually looking at it in first person view. [inaudible] and I knew... [they speak simultaneously]. Go ahead.

27:00 RTH: Let's start with this with the seeing part. What exactly do you see?

27:03 Ryan: I see me looking down, not--I don't see me--me looking down at my grandma's leg that I was looking at the other day in the exact distance... and it's, it's like a memory, um, of looking at the leg. And it was, it was *very* vivid.

27:20 RTH: So this is not really an image of *me*. This is an image of my grandmother's leg.

27:25 Ryan: Yeah. It's, it's a memory of what I was looking at the other day.

27:31 RTH: And, and am I a subject matter of, in any way of this image? Obviously it was me who was seeing it, but, but as far as my, I'm concerned, am I seeing my grandmother's leg again? Is that, is it my experience aimed at her leg?

27:46 Ryan: Yeah. I'm, I'm like looking at her leg like I, I looked at it the other day [RTH: Okay.] same...[they speak simultaneously].

27:52 RTH: This is not about Ryan, it's about grandma. [Ryan: Yeah, yeah, exactly.] Okay. And, and I see it, as far as I can tell, exactly the same way as I saw it before. [Ryan: Yeah.] Is that right? [Ryan: Mm hm.] And I, or I, and I'm not asking whether this is really true, you know, nobody has any recollect...there's no *standard* that you can compare it to, probably. But as far as your experience is concerned, it seems like I'm seeing exactly the same thing as I saw it before. [Ryan: Yeah.] From the same angle, same...

28:22 Ryan: Same angle, same color, same, like I could tell that half of it was gray, the other half was like slightly blackish skin-tone-y color.

28:40 RTH: Okay. [pause] I forgot what I was going to ask. Oh, you said it was "very vivid." Did you mean by very method as the same degree of vividness as when you saw it the first time around?

28:57 Ryan: No. No, it wasn't. No, that'd be crazy!

29:02 RTH: No, it wouldn't be crazy because sometimes people... I wondered whether you it *more* vivid!

29:07 Ryan: Yeeeah! [scratches head in apparent surprise] It was so like, I could tell that it was exactly what I was seeing. Like I saw the shape of the leg and everything. But like, yeah, I don't, I don't know how to answer that question because it's like, it's not actually in front of me. So like, I can't say that it was more or less--I could say it's less visible.

29:07 Russ comments: This interchange about whether the imagined leg is the same as the actually seen leg illustrates some of the difficulties of DES interviews. First, we happily accept that there is no veridical standard against which Ryan can compare his imagination. But that does *not* make the RTH line of questioning nonsensical. DES participants sometimes report obvious excursions from an actual seeing—for example, they may innerly see colors as more vibrant, more neon-like than were present in the original reality. That's the background that led to RTH's (28:48) inquiry about what Ryan meant when he said (27:19) that the imaginarily seen lesion was "very vivid."

But RTH's question apparently energizes a presupposition in Ryan (at 29:01): "No, that'd be crazy!" and perhaps in reaction to that, Ryan now (29:28) says the lesion is *less* visible. The DES aim is to help Ryan describe his experience with fidelity, neither exaggerated (to make stories more interesting) nor minimized (to make stories less crazy). We will have to try to thread that needle.

29:29 RTH: So maybe I asked, maybe I asked the question not quite, not quite right. So I'm gonna try to answer the question, *ask* the question better. So does this, does this ex, visual experience seem like I'm looking at my grandmother's leg and it's the same way as I looked up my grandmother's leg before and I see it the same way as I saw it before, even though I know I'm not really there. And I know that this is in my imagination. And yet my experience is of I've, sort of being transported, I guess: I'm looking at it the same way. [Ryan nods affirmatively] And I *see it* the same way. And I'm not claiming that it's more vivid, less vivid, equally vivid or whatever, but it *seems like* it's the same kind of a seeing.

30:06 Ryan: You, I could not have described it any better than what you said.

30:10 RTH: Okay. And, and that, by the way is part of the bracketing-of-presuppositions thing. Obviously this seeing is not the same as it was before, but I w, I want us to *set that aside* in favor of the *experience*. The *experience*, apparently, is pretty much exactly like it was before, or at least that's the way it seems. That's the way we experience it. Whether or not in fact it *was*, that's it's a different story that I would like us to bracket.

30:34 Ryan: Yeah. It almost felt like I was, I was there in the moment.

30:34 Russ comments: The energy that had (apparently) been unleashed by the presupposition has vanished, so (apparently) the RTH intervention has been effective.

30:40 RTH: Um, so *that* would be, that would mean that this experience *does* include something of Ryan. This is not just, I'm remembering what I *saw*. This is a, I'm remembering that I was there *seeing it*, including what I saw.

30:54 Ryan: Oh, I thought you meant like I, it was like about me looking at it instead of actually just like seeing it. But yeah, it was more like I was reliving the moment than it was just a picture. So I don't know if that clarifies what I said previously. It changes things.

31:16 RTH: Well, these things are hard to, are hard to get straight. And, uh, and, and this is by no means a criticism of Ryan! [Ryan: No, I'm ready.] these are totally, totally [inaudible].... So this is not just, *I have a mental picture of my grandmother's leg*. This is, *I am as if transported back to that situation where I see my grandmother's leg clearly*. [Ryan: (nods affirmatively) Yes.] I don't see myself at all, but I'm, I'm obviously back there in the experiential mode of seeing the leg.

31:50 Ryan: Yup, exactly. That's why I said like, it was, it was, it was like a memory. It was so vivid that like, it was exactly what I was looking at when I was there.

32:01 RTH: Okay. And at the same time as that, I am thinking about saying, "Do you think this is AK?" or "Do you think it's AK?" or something like that?

32:14 Ryan: Um hm. I was... It's almost like what I was seeing was going to be a message sent to someone and the words attached to that message were going to be, "Do you think this is AK?"

32:28 RTH: Okay. And did you take a pic of this while you were there? [Ryan: No.] So you're asking this about your, about your image as if you could transmit this image to your friend. Is that right?

32:42 Ryan: Yeah. So to, to remember what it looked like, I put myself back in that situation of, of where I was to remember what the leg looked like. [RTH: Okay.] Um, yeah.

32:56 RTH: And, and does it make sense to ask, which is more prominent, the saying of this to your friend or the seeing of the [inaudible]?

33:03 Ryan: Uh, it was, it was, it was equal. Yeah. They were both. They both were, were strong. They were both very present, prominent.

33:16 RTH: And, and is your friend experientially present? This is one of those deals where obviously we know who we're talking about.

33:23 Ryan: Yeah. No.

33:24 RTH: But I don't see her or [Ryan: Nothing.] feel her presence in some way or whatever, even though I know these words are aimed at her.

33:30 Ryan: Yeah. I just knew they were aimed at, at her. [pause] I stumped you a little bit?

33:43 RTH: No, I'm just, I'm just reviewing whether I have any more questions, which I don't think I do.

33:48 AK: Me neither.

33:49 Ryan: It was, it was kind of similar to the one with the parking lot [sample 3.5] where like, I was really like present in the, in that, in that daydream, if that makes sense. Like, I was, it was a lot going on and I was experiencing a lot. Um, and it was similar to that.

34:19 RTH: Okay. Alright. Alright. I think that's good. And we're quicker than we have been. We had one, one fewer beep because of the overlapping.

34:25 Ryan: Yeah. [Alek: Yeah.].

34:27 RTH: Anything else we should be talking about today?

34:29 Ryan: I don't think so. I'm just exhausted. So I feel like I could have definitely done a better job explaining things, but I got like three hours of sleep and I've been studying all day.

34:40 RTH: Well, I thought..

34:43 AK: You did a great job.

34:43 RTH: I thought you did a good job, so cool [inaudible]. So you all are going to figure out when we're going to do this again [Alek: Sure.] and then we'll put that on the schedule. [Ryan: Yeah.]

34:55 AK: You got it.

34:58 Ryan: It's going to be, have to be next week sometime, obviously, but [Alek: Sounds good.] Next Wednesday, loosely.

35:08 AK: Okay. I'll reach back out in a couple of days and we can figure out a time or whatever. [Ryan: Perfect.] Okay. [Ryan: All right.] Good to see you again.

35:16 Ryan: You too.

35:16 RTH: See ya later.