Heidegger makes the important distinction (without which you won't understand his work at all) between the **ontological** (Ontologisch) and the **ontic** (ontisch). Heidegger writes, “The ontical distinction of Dasein lies in the fact that it is ontological” (BT, 12). The ontological refers to the **Being** of a particular being, while the ontic refers to what a particular being (for example, Dasein) can or does do. For example, what makes Dasein different from all other particular beings (ontically) is that it takes up the question of its Being (ontological level). To make matters worse, Heidegger refers to the “ontic” categories of Dasein (that is, what particular Daseins do in light of the Being of their being) as **existentielle** (existenziell) and to its ontological categories (the Being of Dasein as care, as always with others, as futural, etc.) as **existential** (existenzial). That is to say, ontically and “existentielly” you may be engaged in reading this, but this is because ontologically and “existentially” you are always already in a world where you have a set of involvements. The point for Heidegger, though, is to think the difference between the two in order to understand at the same time that you are always **both**—your “care” always is filled in with “ontic” concerns.