

## Modes of Spatial Reasoning – List of Associated Words

Most languages have specific words that engage the spatial-thinking parts of the human brain.  
Here are some of those “trigger words” for spatial thinking in English.

**Location – where is it?** (Location is the “entrance ticket” to a geographical investigation.

It’s what makes a study geographical as opposed to historical, biological, archaeological, etc.)

The concept of location has two components:

Conditions – what is at this place? the features you can sense/measure at a place

Connections – how is this place linked with others?

the connections between this place and other places

### Modes of spatial thinking:

Comparison similar/different more/less larger/smaller crowded/empty warmer/colder etc.

Aura near next to close to/far from within [range]/beyond influenced by

Region in group/not in group similar to [belt ally/enemy]

Hierarchy within inside whole/part [of] higher/lower [in “pecking order”] tributary/main stem

Transition first/next/last between earlier/later gentle/steep [slope] gradual/abrupt

Analogy same/different place [middle/edge/corner/upstream etc.] similar/different [position]

Pattern balanced/biased aligned/unaligned even/bunched/random like a ring, arc, wave, etc.

Association together/separate associated correlated/not similar/different [pattern]

### Aspects of spatio-temporal thinking (thinking about space and time together):

Change past/present/future changing/stable early/late increasing/decreasing over time

Movement fast/slow advance/withdraw up/down east/west etc.  
[push/pull immigrant/emigrant import/export]

Diffusion spread/shrink expand/contract [contagion/extinction]

### Strategies for combining various modes of spatial/temporal thinking:

Spatial Model thinking about how something that happens in one place  
can affect other places, perhaps quite far away