

Models in perspective: relating Bio301d models language and concepts to something you already understand

The problem: you have runny nose, itchy eyes, and sore throat

Your GOAL: is to feel better, get relief

Your language & concepts	Bio301d language & concepts:		
	the models	How the model may be useful	Limitations: How the model may be wrong
you think your problems may be due to allergies (but are not sure)	<u>attributing allergies to your symptoms</u> is a hypothesis (abstract model) of what's wrong with you	identifying the cause of your problem is the first step to solving it. allergies may well be the cause.	other health problems give similar symptoms and could be the cause –infections, exposure to mild toxins, reactions to food
you decide to try an antihistamine; they often relieve those symptoms in other people	<u>proposing use of an antihistamine</u> is a hypothesis of how to get relief - of solving your goal	antihistamines relieve allergy symptoms for many people and may therefore work for you	antihistamines do not have the same effects in all people, so they may not work for you, even if your problem is allergies
you go to buy Claritin at a nearby store; you have no prior experience with it, but you've heard of others who got relief with it, and for all you know, one antihistamine is as good as another.	you are <u>using Claritin</u> as a model of all antihistamines. You are using the responses of others as a model of your own response.	Claritin is a suitable choice for an antihistamine (unless you've had bad experience previously)	if indeed an antihistamine will solve your problem, another antihistamine may work better for you than Claritin;
Upon seeing prices, you buy generic Claritin (loratadine), which looks to have the same active ingredient as Claritin	you are <u>using generic loratadine</u> as a model of Claritin	generic is cheaper than brand name (Claritin) and should be chemically the same for what matters	there may be ingredients that differ between Claritin and loratadine; manufacturers of each version may differ and quality may also differ
you choose the first box of loratadine you see on the shelf	<u>the box you purchase</u> is a model of all boxes of loratadine (of the same dose)	given US manufacturing standards, it is reasonably safe to assume one box is as good as the next	the box you buy may be old or have been manufactured improperly and is not up to standards of other boxes on the shelf