

## **Strength of Dispositions**

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Often something is disposed in different ways, and one of these dispositions is stronger than the other. For instance, a heavy rubber ball may be disposed not to bounce when dropped, but also more strongly disposed to bounce when dropped. Similarly, a person may be disposed not to smoke when tired, but also more strongly disposed to smoke when tired. This essay addresses the following question: what is it, in general, for one disposition to be stronger than another? This question proves to be something of a stumbling block for most standard theories of dispositions. Aside from its intrinsic interest to the metaphysics of dispositions, this question has further philosophical applications. Notably, as the example of the smoker suggests, an answer to it would be helpful for understanding agents who are motivationally at odds with themselves.