

## Transcript of the video “Affordances”

[https://youtu.be/NK1Zb\\_5VxuM](https://youtu.be/NK1Zb_5VxuM)

[A man is standing in a room behind a cylinder shaped black object]

Affordances is a technical term, sometimes hard to get, but it is really quite simple.

Affordance refers to the properties of an object and the person. It is the relationship between the object and the person and what the person can do with that object. For example, what is this?

[The man takes a look at the black object in front of him].

Peculiar shape, peculiar object, but it has practical affordances. For example, it affords support.

[The man sits on the object]

It is a chair, see? A very comfortable chair. In fact as long as it supports me and is about the right size I can use it to stand on.

[The man stands on the object]

It rolls a bit, but it affords support, affords standing. In fact, it affords lifting, and therefore throwing, I can throw it at you.

[The man lifts the object and pretends to throw it]

And hiding, see? It does not afford the passage of light, therefore it makes me invisible. Useful to hide against.

[The man holds it up in front of him hiding his face]

Lots of affordances come with objects that you would not expect.

[The man puts down the object and grabs a book and starts flipping through the pages]

Suppose I had a book. Handy, small, can hold it in my hand. Obviously it affords reading and turning the pages, but other things that you might not have thought about, like scratching, if it is rainy protection against the elements.

[The man scratches his head using the book, and covers his head as if it is raining]

Pages, to keep your place, fold down the page. Or need to make a note, rip out a page. It affords ripping. It affords writing.

[The man folds down a page, rips out a page and scribbles on it]

Many affordances. The value of a well designed object is if it has a rich set of affordances that the people who use it can do things with it that the designer never imagined.