

Worksheet Exercise 1.2.A.

Name _____

Detecting Arguments

Class _____ Date _____

Part A. As you read the following passages, interpret each one in the ordinary way. For each passage, determine whether or not it is an argument. If it not an argument, write "not an argument" in the first blank. If it is an argument, then write the premisses and conclusion of the argument (you may shorten them) in the blanks provided. For this exercise, do not try to add any missing parts.

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| 1. If you lie to a parrot, it will bite you. George has never lied to his parrot. So, his parrot has never bitten him. | premise: <u>If you lie to a parrot, it will bite you.</u>
premise: <u>George has never lied to his parrot.</u>
conclusion: <u>His parrot has never bitten him.</u> |
| 2. Earth worms are not carnivorous, because carnivores have teeth, and no earth worms do. | premise: _____
premise: _____
conclusion: _____ |
| 3. Dogs always like bones. Susan's dog will therefore like these items I have brought. They are bones. | premise: _____
premise: _____
conclusion: _____ |
| 4. Dogs always like bones. I have brought some items to Susan. They are bones. | premise: _____
premise: _____
conclusion: _____ |
| 5. Your Honor, the traffic light was not red when I went through it. Please believe me. I am telling the truth. | premise: _____
premise: _____
conclusion: _____ |
| 6. You have a good deal here. The item is not too expensive, and you can make good use of it. | premise: _____
premise: _____
conclusion: _____ |
| 7. If inflation increases, then the price of gold will increase too. We have observed this matter. | premise: _____
premise: _____
conclusion: _____ |
| 8. Since inflation is increasing, the price of gold is increasing too. We have observed this matter. | premise: _____
premise: _____
conclusion: _____ |
| 9. The lecture was very boring. Everybody fell asleep. No one listened to anything that was said. | premise: _____
premise: _____
conclusion: _____ |
| 10. Everybody fell asleep. No one listened to anything that was said. So, it's fair to say the lecture was boring. | premise: _____
premise: _____
conclusion: _____ |