

Worksheet Exercise 1.2.B.

Detecting Arguments

Name _____

Class _____ Date _____

Part B. These are all arguments, and they are more difficult. Identify the premisses and the conclusion (you may shorten them). For this exercise, do not try to add any missing parts, unless the problem requests it. Any extra premiss blanks should be left empty.

(1) That is definitely not my book. My book had my name on it, and that book does not, and that wouldn't be so if it were my book.

prem: _____
prem: _____
prem: _____
prem: _____
concl: _____

(2) Since people should learn logic, they should learn the basics and learn logic, because if they don't learn the basics, then they won't learn logic and won't learn the basics. Logic is so important.

prem: _____
prem: _____
prem: _____
prem: _____
concl: _____

(3) This position on human nature is impossible, because this position is based on the idea that people can never be trusted. And yet, it claims that on rare occasions certain people can be trusted. But there is no way to reconcile these two points, and that's why this position is impossible.

prem: _____
prem: _____
prem: _____
prem: _____
concl: _____

(4) Life is short. [Supply what is missing.]

prem: _____
prem: _____
concl: _____

(5) Since our candidate has a commanding lead in the polls, and in as much as her opponent advocates unpopular views, she will surely win the election. And no one can minimize her considerable administrative experience. No one can lose with advantages like that.

prem: _____
prem: _____
prem: _____
prem: _____
concl: _____

(6) Liz really wants to meet Bill. And we know she is not shy. So, I think she is coming to the party, because she said that she was free then, and she also knows that Bill will be there. After all, people generally do what they want to do, if they are in a position to do it. She'll be there. You can rely on it.

prem: _____

prem: _____

prem: _____

prem: _____

prem: _____

concl: _____

(7) It may appear that people's minds are sometimes completely inactive, but it must be true that our minds are really always active. Otherwise, it would be impossible for an alarm to waken us from such inactivity. But, as we all know, alarms do actually work. (Don't forget to set your alarm clock.)

prem: _____

prem: _____

prem: _____

prem: _____

concl: _____

(8) Since Bill went to the party in order to meet Liz, and given that the party was a small one, Liz will certainly meet Bill if she goes there, because two people in those circumstances will meet each other, if they want to, and Liz does.

prem: _____

prem: _____

prem: _____

prem: _____

concl: _____

(9) You have to watch out for sneak attacks, They will make them, you can count on that. They agreed to have an open debate, but instead they only attacked us. You see, it's true.

prem: _____

prem: _____

prem: _____

concl: _____

(10) The bigger the burger, the better the burger. The burgers are bigger at Burger Barn. [Supply what is missing.]

prem: _____

prem: _____

prem: _____

concl: _____