

L6

Recognize Argument

What is Argument?

Set of claims/statements.

What are those claims/statements doing?

There is one claim/statement that is conclusion... The other claims/statements provide evidence or support to this conclusion. These other statements are called the premise(s)

Without a conclusion, there is no argument.

Arguments

1. Arguments are **not** statements, they contain the statements.
2. Arguments can be single sentences but even they can be broken down
3. Statements/claims can be F or T
 - Argument isn't false or true
 - Claims/statements can't be valid/invalid (although it is used)
4. No fixed number of premises
 - you can have many premises
 - and then a conclusion like "HENCE pigs can fly"
 - the "Hence" - indicator of conclusion makes it look like a conclusion
 - or you need to indicate premises
 - cigarette smoking must be banned, because it causes cancer
 - here the premises are indicated
5. No fixed form of argument in natural language. Premises do not have to precede conclusion

Examples

- All dogs are small. Hence cat is small

- we don't know if cate is a doge (it's not)
- argument, but not a good argument
- All humans are mortal. Hence John is mortal
 - assume john is a human
- Not all premises may be explicitly mentioned^ . Some are hidden/assumed/suppressed

1. We can lend money to John because he is a nice person

- Nice people can be lent money

2. Because women have a right to their body, abortion should be legal.

- abortion is an act on the body

3. Of course the bullet will fall back to earth

- bad argument, no premise

4. We should not punish the innocent

- it doesn't even look like an argument acc. to logic, it has to be presented as an argument
- it's a shitty argument
- innocents are not criminals

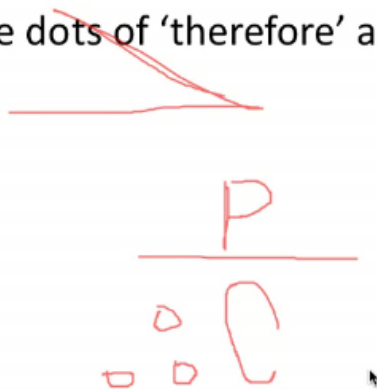
5. logic relies on form, that's why it's FORMal logic

A good understanding of the world is required to consider arguments with hidden premises

When we do logic, we must identify the premises and conclusion, and state them in a standard format:

Premise1...PremiseN. Therefore, Conclusion.

In symbolic logic, the three dots of 'therefore' are used.



therefore \therefore

because \because

Premise
∴ Conclusion

Words to indicate premise:

Since/For/Because/Given that

- For I am the son of a king, you should call me a prince

Words to indicate conclusion

Therefore/thus/consequently/hence/so

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- However, some MAY look spuriously like conclusion indicators!!!!
 - Since yesterday i am feeling unwell
 - Even "thus":
 - Even though John has been rude, you should not speak to him thus (in this manner).
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And my apologies for some mistakes in the slides!