

Eel in the Reef

Three divers were exploring a reef in tropical water when they spotted an eel in the coral. The divers looked at a book about eels and found these pictures of eels.



This is how the divers described the eel:



Diver 1: ¹If you looked deep into its mouth, you could see teeth. ²The eel was about 3 feet long and looked similar to a snake.



Diver 2: ³It looked mean, but didn't act mean. ⁴The eel blended in perfectly with the brownish colors of the reef.



Diver 3: It was beautiful! ⁵It had markings on its body that looked like decorations. ⁶It was all different shades of the same color.

Circle the sentence numbers that support each decision below. Then evaluate all the evidence to find the eel the divers saw.

A	B	C	D
This is the eel.	This is the eel.	This is the eel.	This is the eel.
1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6
This is not the eel.	This is not the eel.	This is not the eel.	This is not the eel.
1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6

Based on the evidence, which of these eels is probably the eel the divers saw? Circle your answer.

A B C D

Read the story and then mark each statement Fact, PT (probably true), or PF (probably false). Finally, explain why the claim fits the category you chose.

Gatsby Vacation



Mr. and Mrs. Gatsby decided to go on vacation. They packed their car with everything they needed for the trip and began the short drive to a small cabin they rented on a lake in Minnesota.

1. _____ The Gatsbys live in Minnesota.

2. _____ The Gatsbys are driving a red car.

3. _____ The Gatsbys are only planning on going on vacation for one night before returning home.

4. _____ The Gatsbys own a dog.

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Common Errors in Reasoning

Emotions and Critical Thinking

Emotions are something that every person has. There are good emotions like love and joy, and bad emotions like hate and jealousy. Emotions are part of what makes us human, but emotions can sometimes interfere with our ability to think clearly.

Learning to spot emotional thinking can help us to see when you or other people are letting negative emotions disrupt their thinking.

Emotional Words Practice

Write the emotional word in each sentence below.

1. She is such an idiot, I can't believe she thinks I'm her friend.
- idiot

When someone calls someone an idiot, they are purposely using a hurtful name to describe someone. When you use a hurtful name to describe someone, it is a sign that you have an emotional dislike for that person.

2. I told that big dummy I didn't want to go to the game with him.
-
3. Her face is so ugly that she looks a little like a frog.
-
4. He dropped the ball because he has the brain of a moron!
-
5. She isn't nice, she stinks like old socks!
-
6. Only stupid people like you would believe that.
-
7. The big hippo knows I don't like him.
-
8. I hate her so much, I can't really describe it.
-

Evidence of emotional thinking is not just found in emotional language. Evidence of emotional thinking is often found in a person's behavior. Read the story below and then describe two pieces of evidence that show the older brother's thinking toward his younger brother is clouded with emotion.

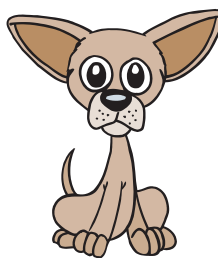
¹Jackson was nearly always pushing his younger brother down for no reason. ²We asked him to stop it and he did, but then Jackson started telling him to shut up every time he tried to say anything. ³We thought of him as a friend, but none of us knew Jackson could be so mean.

Practice Problems

Read each story and then look for evidence of emotional thinking to answer the questions.



Lucy



Rico

Carole's Story

¹My neighbor Linda has had her dog Lucy for four years. ²She always brings Lucy with her whenever she can. ³She thinks Lucy is smart because Lucy can do stupid dog tricks. ⁴I don't think Lucy is smart, but dumb and ugly. ⁵I've seen Lucy run right in front of a car while chasing a ball. ⁶Sometimes I think Linda isn't any smarter than her dog. ⁷My dog Rico doesn't do any tricks because I never taught him any. ⁸I could teach him tricks, but I don't have the time.

1. Which three sentences have emotional language from Carole?

2. What word in sentence 3 shows that Carole is emotional?

3. What two words in sentence 4 shows that Carole is thinking emotionally?

4. What evidence in sentence 6 shows that Carole is thinking emotionally?
