

impossible to find a value of  $n$  that makes  $p$  true and  $q$  false. Thus this is the ONLY combination of truth values of  $p$  and  $q$  that would make the implications *false*.

Although we have determined the truth value of  $p \rightarrow q$  only for a particular pair of propositions  $p$  and  $q$ , our conclusions hold in general: for any propositions  $p$  and  $q$ ,  $p \rightarrow q$  is false *only when*  $p$  is true and  $q$  is false. Thus we have the following truth table for  $p \rightarrow q$ .

$p$	$q$	$p \rightarrow q$
0	0	1
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	1	1

Figure 3.5.

To most people, this table does not seem to follow our intuition in the same way as the tables for  $\neg$ ,  $\wedge$  and  $\vee$ . You are therefore strongly advised to learn it carefully.

**An alternative expression for  $p \rightarrow q$**

The truth table for  $p \rightarrow q$  enables us to express this conditional statement by means of negations and the connective "or".

**Result 3.5**  $p \rightarrow q = \neg p \vee q$ .

*Proof.* We use truth tables to show that  $p \rightarrow q = \neg p \vee q$ . The first table is for the left side of this equation and the second table is for the right side.

$p$	$q$	$p \rightarrow q$
0	0	1
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	1	1

$p$	$q$	$\neg p$	$\neg p \vee q$
0	0	1	1
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	1	0	1

Comparing the columns corresponding to the statements  $p \rightarrow q$  and  $\neg p \vee q$ , we see they are identical. Hence these two expressions are logically equivalent.  $\square$

**Truth tables for  $q \rightarrow p$  and  $p \leftrightarrow q$**

From the table in Figure 3.5, we can deduce the truth table for  $q \rightarrow p$ , by interchanging the roles of  $p$  and  $q$ . Thus  $q \rightarrow p$  is false only when  $q$  is true and  $p$  is false.

From the truth tables for  $p \rightarrow q$  and  $q \rightarrow p$ , we can deduce the truth table for  $p \leftrightarrow q$ , because we have defined  $p \leftrightarrow q$  as  $(p \rightarrow q) \wedge (q \rightarrow p)$ . Thus  $p \leftrightarrow q$  is true only when either *both*  $p$  and  $q$  are true or *both*  $p$  and  $q$  are false.

$p$	$q$	$p \rightarrow q$	$q \rightarrow p$	$p \leftrightarrow q$
0	0	1	1	1
0	1	1	0	0
1	0	0	1	0
1	1	1	1	1

Figure 3.6.

Result 3.5 gives us a way of expressing the truth set for the conditional statement  $p \rightarrow q$  and hence for  $q \rightarrow p$  and  $p \leftrightarrow q$ .

**Result 3.6** Let  $P, Q$  be the truth sets for propositions  $p$  and  $q$  respectively. Then the truth set for  $p \rightarrow q$  is  $P' \cup Q$  and the truth set for  $p \leftrightarrow q$  is  $(P' \cup Q) \cap (P \cup Q')$ .  $\square$