

Exercise 1.1 Identifying arguments

1. This is an argument. The conclusion is that it is unnecessary for the region's water authority to impose restrictions on residential water use.
2. This is not an argument. It is a description of how modern societies have changed as a result of technology.
3. This is not an argument, since no reasons are given for thinking that the teacher's claim is true.
4. Not an argument, but an explanation of why stabilizers are added to ice cream, along with a claim about the consequences for flavour.
5. This is an argument. The conclusion is about ethical principles and the premises provide an analogy with beliefs about the nature of the world.
 1. We know that societies and cultures frequently hold different beliefs about the nature of the world and the things that are in it.
 2. This does not mean that the different beliefs are all correct or that the choice among them is arbitrary or due to upbringing.**Therefore,**
 - C. Even if we admit that societies often hold different ethical principles, this does not mean that there are no correct or true principles.
6. This is not an argument, but an explanation of why Thailand and India have fought legal battles to protect their rice industry. The facts about the Texan company mentioned are supposed to explain why Thailand and India have acted in a certain way. They are not supposed to give you a reason for thinking it is *true* that Thailand and India acted that way. That is presupposed, rather than argued for.
7. This is an explanation, not an argument. It is a statement or assertion of the cause of the trawler sinking. But no reasons are given for thinking that this is the correct explanation, so we do not have an argument.
8. This is clearly an argument. A reason is given for the conclusion that a bottle of wine would be an inappropriate birthday present for Cecile.
9. This is not an argument, but a statement of historical fact.
10. This is not an argument, but an explanation. The passage simply asserts that authoritarian rulers act in certain ways for certain reasons. But no argument is given for thinking that it is true that they act in that way for those reasons. So there is no argument.

Exercise 1.2 Standardising arguments

1. Large inequalities in wealth always threaten the viability of true democracy, since wealth is the basis of political power, and true democracy depends on the equal distribution of political power among all citizens.

1. Wealth is the basis of political power.

2. True democracy depends on the equal distribution of political power among all citizens.

Therefore:

C. Large inequalities in wealth always threaten the viability of true democracy.

2. There are a growing number of organisations which have been set up to deal with bullying. So bullying must be on the increase.

1. There are a growing number of organisations which have been set up to deal with bullying.

Therefore:

C. Bullying is on the increase.

3. If the world's climate was getting warmer, we would find that some of the ice at both the North and South Pole was melting at an unusually high rate. If the ice was melting, we would see its effect in rising sea levels. There is evidence that sea levels are increasing, so the world's climate must be getting warmer.

1. If the world's climate was getting warmer, we would find that some of the ice at both the North and South Pole was melting at an unusually high rate.

2. If the ice was melting, we would see its effect in rising sea levels.

3. Sea levels are increasing.

Therefore:

C. The world's climate must be getting warmer.

4. When girls are educated in single-sex secondary schools, they tend to do better academically than girls who attend mixed-sex schools. Since Alice achieved higher grades than any other woman in her first year at the university, she was probably educated at a single-sex school.

1. When girls are educated in single-sex secondary schools, they tend to do better academically than girls who attend mixed-sex schools.

2. Alice achieved higher grades than any other woman in her first year at the university.

Therefore:

C. Alice was probably educated at a single-sex school.

5. Since youngsters who read voraciously are more likely to have defective vision than youngsters who do not read very much, it follows that children who do not like to read usually have perfect vision.

1. Youngsters who read voraciously are more likely to have defective vision than youngsters who do not read very much.

Therefore:

C. Children who do not like to read usually have perfect vision.

6. When children have parents who help them with their homework, they usually do well in school. Therefore, having help with homework is probably the cause of high academic achievement.

1. When children have parents who help them with their homework, they usually do well in school.

Therefore:

C. Having help with homework is probably the cause of high academic achievement.

7. It is often asserted that there are fewer good teachers than there used to be because teachers' salaries have reached a new low. But teachers have always been poorly paid, so low salaries cannot fully explain the perceived decline in the effectiveness of teachers.

1. There are fewer good teachers than there used to be.

2. Teachers have always been poorly paid.

Therefore:

C. Low salaries cannot fully explain the perceived decline in the effectiveness of teachers.

8. All efforts to identify a single gene responsible for predisposing people to manic-depression have failed. In fact, nearly all researchers now agree that there is no "manic-depression gene." Therefore, any claim that some people are genetically predisposed to manic-depression is simply false.

1. All efforts to identify a single gene responsible for predisposing people to manic-depression have failed.

2. Nearly all researchers now agree that there is no "manic-depression gene."

Therefore:

C. Any claim that some people are genetically predisposed to manic-depression is simply false.

9. Everyone who is a gourmet cook enjoys a wide variety of foods and spices. Since no one who enjoys a wide variety of foods and spices prefers bland foods to all other foods, it follows that anyone who prefers bland foods to all other foods is not a gourmet cook.

1. Everyone who is a gourmet cook enjoys a wide variety of foods and spices.

2. No one who enjoys a wide variety of foods and spices prefers bland foods to all other foods.

Therefore:

C. It follows that anyone who prefers bland foods to all other foods is not a gourmet cook.

10. The capture of a wild animal is justified only as a last resort to save that animal's life. But many wild animals are captured not because their lives are in any danger but so that they can be bred in captivity. Hence, many animals that have been captured should not have been captured.

1. The capture of a wild animal is justified only as a last resort to save that animal's life.

2. Many wild animals are captured not because their lives are in any danger but so that they can be bred in captivity

Therefore:

C. Many animals that have been captured should not have been captured.