

Validity and soundness are the two most fundamental concepts for you to grasp in this course. Let's illustrate them by considering some example arguments.

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valid when it is
impossible for its
premises to be
true and its
conclusion false

an argument is
sound when it is
valid and all of its
premises are true

Arguments consist of one or more **premises** and a **conclusion**. The conclusion is what you are arguing for; the premises are the (alleged) basis for that conclusion.

The two key terms used in the evaluation of an argument are **valid** and **sound**.

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