



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.

an argument is  
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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