

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

Before talking about more examples, let's take a step back. Why should we care about validity?

We care about this because we care about the truth. When we are looking at an argument, we want to know whether the conclusion is true. If we know that the argument is valid, we know that **if** its premises are true, then the conclusion is too.

Conversely, we also know that if an argument is valid, then if the conclusion is false, at least one of its premises must be false too.

This connects up with your two of your main goals in this class: argue for your views, and defend your views against counter-arguments.

Youdo the first by constructing valid arguments with true premises.

You do the second by finding false premises in arguments against your views.

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