

An inference is an assumption or conclusion that is rationally and logically made, based on the given facts or circumstances. An inference is based on facts, so the reasoning for the conclusion is often logical.

Find out the inferences from the following.

1. Jupiter has 2.5 times more mass than all the other planets of the solar system combined and is 11 times as large as Earth in diameter. Jupiter is so large that scientists believe it almost became a star: as the gases and dust contracted to form the planet, gravitational forces created tremendous pressure and temperature inside the core—as high as tens of thousands of degrees. But there was not enough mass available to create the temperature needed to start a fusion reaction such as that of the Sun (above 27,000,000 Fahrenheit, or 15,000,000 Celsius, at the Sun's core); thus Jupiter has been slowly cooling down ever since. Even so, Jupiter radiates about as much heat as it receives from the Sun.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) Exo-planets the size of Jupiter can be expected to have a core that is the same temperature as that of Jupiter.
- (b) All observable stars in the galaxy are formed from planets that heated over 27,000,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
- (c) The mass of a planet can have an effect on the temperature of its core.
- (d) None of these

2. The term "neon light" was originally applied to a particular type of vapor lamp using the inert, colorless gas neon. A long tube was filled with neon, which then became luminous at low pressure when an electric current was passed through it. The lamp then emitted the characteristic reddish-orange light of neon. Today, the term "neon light" is given to lamps of this general type which may be filled with a variety of gases, depending on the color that is desired. Argon, for example, is used to produce blue light. Colors can also be altered by changing the color of the glass tube. The tubes must be quite long in all these lamps to produce light efficiently. As a result, high voltages are required. Neon tube lamps are not practical for indoor illumination, but they have found widespread outdoor use in glowing, colorful advertising signs.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) The inert gas neon is reddish-orange in color.
- (b) Today's "neon lights" never actually contain neon.
- (c) Modern "neon lights" are more efficient than those used in the past.
- (d) The primary market for neon lights is businesses rather than private households.

3. A legend is a popular type of folk tale. In some ways, legends resemble myths, another type of folk tale. But myths describe events from antiquity and usually deal with religious subjects, such as the birth of a god. Legends tell of recognizable people, places and events and often take place in comparatively recent times. Some legends are based on real persons or events, but many are entirely fictional. The legends of the superhuman accomplishments of Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill are imaginary, while the legends about Washington and Lincoln are mostly exaggerations of real qualities those two presidents had. All societies have legends. Most legends began as stories about the heroes of a particular region, occupation, or ethnic group. For example, John Henry was a legendary hero of black Americans, and Casey Jones of railroad workers. Over time, however, these figures have become national heroes.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) Both legends and myths can be classified as folk tales.
- (b) Myths generally take place in comparatively recent times.
- (c) The stories of Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill are not true, but they are based on actual people.
- (d) John Henry and Casey Jones are today well-known only by small groups of people.

4. Natural flavorings and fragrances are often costly and limited in supply. For example, the vital ingredient in a rose fragrance is extracted from natural rose oil at a cost of thousands of dollars a pound; an identical synthetic substance can be made for 1% of this cost. Since the early twentieth century, success in reproducing these substances has created a new industry that today produces hundreds of artificial flavors and fragrances. Some natural fragrances are easily synthesized; these include vanillin, the aromatic ingredient in vanilla, and benzaldehyde, the aromatic ingredient in wild cherries. Other fragrances, however, have dozens, even hundreds of components. Only recently has it been possible to separate and identify these ingredients by the use of gas chromatography and spectroscopy. Once the chemical identity is known, it is often possible to synthesize them. Nevertheless, some complex substances, such as the aroma of fresh coffee, have still not been duplicated satisfactorily. Many of the chemical compounds making up these synthetics are identical to those found in nature, and are as harmless or harmful as the natural substances. New products must be tested for safety, and when used in food, must be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The availability of synthetic flavors and fragrances has made possible a large variety of products, from inexpensive beverages to perfumed soap to used cars with applied "new car odor."

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) Vanillin is easier to synthesize than benzaldehyde.
- (b) In general, the more components there are in a fragrance, the harder it is to synthesize.
- (c) Once a substance has been chemically analyzed, it can always be easily synthesized.
- (d) Only recently has it been possible to satisfactorily synthesize the aroma of fresh coffee.

5. Diamond Enterprises is a store in Apisville that sells specialty luxury items. For several years, Diamond reaped substantial profits and was considering building branch stores in nearby counties. Stibium Industries, for several years the single largest employer in Apisville and the surrounding region, abruptly closed its plant last year, causing widespread unemployment. Only a fraction of the former Stibium workers have found new jobs, and many of these at much lower wages. Early this year, Diamond Enterprises has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, citing the closure of Stibium as one of the primary causes.

Which of the following inferences is best supported by the passage?

- (a) Diamond Enterprises would have avoided bankruptcy if it had followed through with the plan to build branch stores during its more prosperous years.
- (b) Stibium's management team had a corporate account with Diamond Enterprises, and ordered several luxury items used in business meetings and to entertain prospective clients.
- (c) Diamond's direct competitors, in Apisville and in the surrounding region, are much larger than Diamond, and therefore benefitted substantially from the conditions that arose after Stibium closed.
- (d) The closure of Stibium resulted in a loss of revenue for Diamond Enterprises.

Read each sentence; then circle the one answer choice that is a logical inference based upon that sentence.

6. Blood cholesterol used to be thought of as a problem only for adults.
- (a) Blood cholesterol is no longer a problem for adults.
 - (b) Only children have a problem with blood cholesterol.
 - (c) Blood cholesterol affects both adults and children.
7. When apple growers talk about new varieties of apples, they don't mean something developed last month, last year, or even in the last decade.
- (a) Apple growers haven't developed any new varieties in recent decades.
 - (b) Some varieties of apples can be developed in a short time, but others take a long time.
 - (c) New varieties of apples take many years to develop.

8. In all cultures, gestures are used as a form of communication, but the same gestures may have very different meanings in different cultures.
- (a) No two cultures use the same gestures.
 - (b) One gesture will never have the same meaning in two cultures.
 - (c) A person from one culture may misunderstand the gestures used by a person from another culture.
9. Although sheepherding is an older and more beloved occupation, shepherds never caught the attention of American filmmakers the way cowboys did.
- (a) There have been more American films about cowboys than about shepherds.
 - (b) Films about shepherds were popular before films about cowboys.
 - (c) Cowboys are generally younger than shepherds.
10. As an architect, Thomas Jefferson preferred the Roman style, as seen in the buildings of the University of Virginia, to the English style favored by Charles Bullfinch.
- (a) The architecture of the University of Virginia was influenced by the Roman style.
 - (b) Bullfinch was an English architect.
 - (c) Jefferson preferred to build in the English style of architecture.
11. Even spiders that do not build webs from silk use it for a variety of purposes, such as constructing egg sacs and nursery tents.
- (a) All spiders build webs.
 - (b) Spiders that build webs don't build egg sacs or nursery tents.
 - (c) Silk is used by all spiders.
12. There is more quartz in the world than any one kind of feldspar, but the feldspars as a group are five times more common than quartz.
- (a) One type of quartz is five times more plentiful than feldspar.
 - (b) Quartz is less common than the feldspars.
 - (c) The most common type of feldspar is as plentiful as quartz.
13. Illegible handwriting does not indicate weakness of character, as even a quick glance at the penmanship of George Washington, Franklin D. Roosevelt, or John Kennedy reveals.
- (a) Washington, Roosevelt, and Kennedy all had handwriting that was difficult to read.
 - (b) A person's handwriting reveals a lot about that person.
 - (c) The author believes that Washington, Roosevelt, and Kennedy all had weak characters.

14. Although Locke has been hailed as a giant figure in European intellectual history, his ideas were largely borrowed from his predecessors, who are now unfairly neglected by historians. Furthermore, Locke never wrote a truly great book; his most widely known works are muddy in style, awkwardly constructed, and often self-contradictory.

With which of the following would the author most likely agree?

- (a) Locke made use of ideas without acknowledging his predecessors as the sources of those ideas.
- (b) Current historians are re-evaluating the work of Locke in the light of present-day knowledge.
- (c) Locke's contributions to the development of European thought have been greatly exaggerated.
- (d) Historians should reexamine Locke's place in European intellectual history.

15. In 2008, Gotsland used three-times as much energy from non-renewable sources as renewable sources. Gotsland's proposed ten-year energy plan would result in the country using as much renewable as non-renewable energy by 2018, while using a larger amount of energy than in 2008.

Which of the following must happen for Gotsland's plan to work?

- (a) By 2018, Gotsland will more than triple its use of energy sources.
- (b) Gotsland will have to make a political effort to have a more sustainable energy economy.
- (c) By 2018, Gotsland will have to decrease its reliance on non-renewable energy sources.
- (d) By 2018, Gotsland will more than triple its use of renewable energy sources over 2008 levels.

Read each passage and then respond to the questions. Each question will ask you to make a logical inference based on textual details. Explain your answer by referencing the text.

Every day after work Paul took his muddy boots off on the steps of the front porch. Alice would have a fit if the boots made it so far as the welcome mat. He then took off his dusty overalls and threw them into a plastic garbage bag; Alice left a new garbage bag tied to the porch railing for him every morning. On his way in the house, he dropped the garbage bag off at the washing machine and went straight up the stairs to the shower as he was instructed. He would eat dinner with her after he was "presentable," as Alice had often said.

- 16. What type of job does Paul do?
- 17. What relationship do Paul and Alice have?

Today was a special day in Ms. Smith's class. Some of the children were walking around the room, some of them were

standing in small groups, and some of them were at their desks, putting finishing touches on cardboard mailboxes. After coloring a cool flame on the side of his racecar mailbox, Johnny hopped off his chair, strutted over to Veronica's desk, and dropped a small white envelope into her princess castle mailbox. Veronica blushed and played with her hair. While this was happening, Bartleby was frantically trying to put a small white envelope into everyone's mailbox. After giving one to Ms. Smith, Bartleby pulled out a medium-sized red envelope from his pocket. He blushed and tried to put it in Veronica's mailbox, but it wouldn't quite fit. Bartleby struggled with it for a few seconds and then ran off with the envelope. Veronica rolled her eyes and popped her gum.

18. Why is today a special day?

19. Why did Bartleby run?

Kyle ran into his house, slamming the door behind him. He threw his book bag on the floor and plopped onto the couch. After six hours of playing Grand Larceny VII, he ate some pizza and fell asleep with a slice on his stomach and his feet on his book bag. When Kyle came home from school the next day, he was noticeably distraught. He balled up his report card and placed it inside a soup can in the garbage. He then flipped the soup can upside down in the garbage can and arranged loose pieces of trash over it. As he plopped down on the couch, he let out a sigh and picked up his controller.

20. Why is Kyle distraught?

Ryan was looking forward to sleeping over at his friend Robert's house. Though they had been classmates for a while, the two had only recently become good friends. Ryan packed up his sleeping bag, a pillow, and a few of his favorite toys and games, and then his mom dropped him off at Robert's. Robert met Ryan on the porch and the two did their secret handshake and started playing right away. First they played pirates in Robert's tree fort. Next they played ninjas in the driveway. Then it started getting dark and they went inside of Robert's house. As soon as they walked in the house, Ryan's eyes start getting red and itchy. He saw a big orange cat sitting on the couch. Then he started sneezing uncontrollably. "I'm sorry, Robert. It's been a lot of fun, but I have to call my mom."

21. Why do Ryan's eyes get red and itchy when he walks into Robert's house?

22. Why does Ryan want to call his mother?

"William, don't forget your towel!" Mom shouted as she applied sunblock on the baby. William threw the folding chairs in the back of the minivan and shouted through the garage door, "OK Mom!" He then ran up and grabbed his towel. "Georgie!" William shouted. There was no response. Mom packed the baby up into the car seat. "William, can you help me with his umbrella?" William ran down the stairs, almost tripping over a chew toy,

and then he helped his mother load the large umbrella in the minivan. "Mom, I can't find Georgie," William said. His mother shrugged and replied, "That's OK, William. He probably shouldn't come with us anyway."

23. Who is Georgie?

Tony walked out of the shopping mall with his arms full of bags and the sun shining on him. As he approached his car, he started awkwardly feeling around his pockets with his arm full of bags. He did not find what he was looking for so he transferred the bags on one arm to the other arm, which already had bags. Tony had a lot of bags on one arm. He still couldn't find what he was looking for. Now he dropped the bags and plunged both hands desperately into all of the pockets on his jeans. With a look of despair, Tony ran to his car. He tried to open the door, but it was locked. Then he saw something on the passenger seat of the car. He stopped looking and pulled his phone out of his pocket.

24. Why does Tony get so frantic?

25. What does Tony see on the passenger seat?

Mr. Ericson was a manager at a small insurance company in Minnesota. One cold winter day, April McKenzie, one of his employees, approached him about some time off from work. "This job is very important to me, Mr. Ericson, but I've been called into jury duty. When my government asks for my help, I have to answer the call." Mr. Ericson rubbed his forehead. "We really need you here, April, but the government needs you more. Take the time. We'll be alright." Mr. Ericson had thought that they needed her there at the office, but they managed fine without her. When April returned a week later, Mr. Ericson noticed that most of her skin was bright shade of red except for around her eyes. Pale white circles ran from the top of her eyebrows to the bottom of her cheeks. These pale circles were surrounded by sunburned flesh. That's when Mr. Ericson knew. "April, step into my office. There are some things we need to discuss," Mr. Ericson said ominously.

26. Where was April?

27. Why does April have white circles around her eyes?

Gloria was driving around the neighborhood in her pajamas. Every block or so she'd stop the car, hold her head out of the door, whistle, and call out "Candy! Candy! Come here girl!" Then she'd start the car again and slowly drive another block or two, looking around from left to right. Curtis sat in the passenger seat. He was looking around too, but he held his head low. "How many times have I told you to make sure that you shut and lock the door after you come in?" Gloria reprimanded Curtis. Curtis sighed. He felt bad enough without her finger-wagging.

28. Who is Candy? What are Gloria and Curtis doing?

29. How did Candy get out?

30. Why does Curtis feel bad?