



## Reading &gt; Lesson 3: Inference Questions &gt; Exercise 3.1

**FOCUS:** Identifying valid inferences based on sentences or short passages.

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**DIRECTIONS:** Read each sentence or short passage. Choose the statement that is a valid inference based on the information that you read.

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- 1 In printed music manuscripts, a slow tempo, such as one beat per second, would be indicated as  
= 60 (60 quarter notes per minute).

However, the composer might in this instance simply write "lento" and expect the performer to decide the precise tempo to play.

- ☐ Many printed music manuscripts give no tempo instructions to performers.
- ☐ "Lento" likely means to play at a tempo of about one beat per second.
- ☐ Sixty beats per minute is the most commonly used tempo in music composition.



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- 2 During arithmetic operations it is important to keep the assigned units straight; it makes no sense to add 8 gloves to 4 pieces of apparatus. Like units should be used in arithmetic operations, which is especially true when using formulas.
- ☐ Adding 8 gloves to 4 pieces of apparatus is an example of a poorly formed arithmetical operation.
  - ☐ It usually makes more sense to arrange arithmetic operations so that addition occurs before subtraction.
  - ☐ Formulas should use letters like X and Y as substitutes for terms like *gloves* and *pieces* of apparatus.



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- 3 The reading process is interactive. In other words, meaning is created through the reader's interaction with a text. The meaning of a particular work comes alive in the imagination of an individual reader, and no reader can determine a work's meaning without considering his or her own reaction to the text.
- ☐ Reading stimulates the imagination and helps give our lives depth and meaning.
  - ☐ Good authors are able to gauge the reactions of their audiences successfully.
  - ☐ The interactive nature of reading suggests that a text's meaning can vary from reader to reader.



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4 In addition to documenting the range and nuances of chimpanzee behavior, British researcher Jane Goodall has also championed primate habitat preservation and the humane treatment of primates in captivity.

- ☐ Jane Goodall's research into chimpanzee behavior has shown how similar these primates are to humans.
- ☐ Jane Goodall has done more to raise awareness of the need to preserve primate habitat than any other researcher in her field.
- ☐ Jane Goodall would likely support reforms that result in better conditions for monkeys and apes held in zoos.



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5 In the late 1800s, an organization known as the Syndicate would send out only those theater productions it thought capable of attracting a mass audience. It opposed the kind of innovations that had triumphed in Europe, and it effectively kept the American theater in the pre-modern mode.

- ☐ Pre-modern American theater productions did not include many European innovations.
- ☐ In the late 1800s, theater in Europe drew larger audiences than American theater did.
- ☐ To attract larger audiences, the Syndicate encouraged American theater productions to adopt European innovations.



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- 6 Cultural beliefs and practices are often so well learned that they may seem natural or innate. But culture may be taught through direct instruction, such as a parent teaching a child how to use silverware or teachers instructing children through songs, myths, and other traditions in school.
- ☐ Our cultural beliefs and practices are influenced by our natural surroundings.
  - ☐ Most of what we consider culture is learned in early childhood through observing and interacting with our peers.
  - ☐ The way that children are raised by their parents influences their cultural attitudes and behaviors.



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- 7 Many archaeologists do not agree with the idea that their role is simply to "dig up the past," that the successful archaeologist is one who discovers something not seen before. Archaeology is not a field that can study the past directly, nor can it be one that merely involves discovery. Archaeology is a field wholly dependent upon assumptions about the past built from artifacts and other clues discovered in the contemporary world. Modern archaeologists must be well versed in a variety of scientific disciplines, including geography, geology, chemistry, physics, and biology.
- ☐ There is debate among archaeologists as to whether "digging up the past" is actually true scientific discovery.
  - ☐ Archaeologists build theories about past civilizations from the clues they uncover through various research methods.
  - ☐ Many people think that archaeology as a science lacks the rigor of other disciplines such as geography, geology, chemistry, physics, or biology.



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8 We can measure how far away the moon or a planet is by bouncing radio waves off it and measuring the total amount of time the waves were in flight. It is much more difficult to measure the distances of stars, galaxies, and other objects beyond our solar system.

- ☐ Astronomers do not use radio waves to measure the distance of stars and other objects beyond the solar system.
- ☐ Although it is difficult to do so, the distances to objects beyond the solar system can be measured very accurately.
- ☐ Determining the distance to objects outside of our solar system requires the use of sophisticated methods of measurement.



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9 Great damage is done whenever an unprincipled or even desperate researcher, whose career may depend on the publication of a research study, knowingly disseminates false data. Fortunately, science tends to correct and monitor itself through the consistent use of the scientific process. Unethical research practices are easily uncovered whenever the results of a study are unable to be replicated by other researchers.

- ☐ The scientific community will eventually discover and reject studies that disseminate false or misleading data.
- ☐ To protect their careers and reputations, researchers are quick to publish corrections to their data when it is found to contain errors.
- ☐ Each year, poorly trained researchers publish inaccurate and misleading data, using up scarce financial and other resources in the process.



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**10** At the time, biologists believed that all life was divisible into two categories: plants and animals. However, not long after the initial development of microscopes, investigators discovered new forms of life--bacteria and protists--that were neither plants nor animals. Some biologists, however, were unable to change their view of reality to accommodate this new knowledge, and insisted that with further research, the "new" life forms would eventually be found to be either plants or animals.

- ☐ The development of the microscope led to the discovery of new kinds of plant life.
- ☐ Some biologists argued that a third category of life forms existed.
- ☐ Biologists redefined the terms *plant* and *animal* to include bacteria and protists.



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**11** While the rules in U.S. colleges in the mid-1850s were strict, enforcement by the professors was erratic. There were too many colleges, and the colleges needed students more than students needed the colleges, so the professors' hands were tied in many cases.

- ☐ Strict schools risked losing students to more lenient schools.
- ☐ By the mid-1850s, professors were no longer expected to discipline students.
- ☐ Colleges in the 1850s were competing for talented professors in many academic disciplines.



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**12** According to Aldo Leopold, one of the first U.S. conservationists, the role of the human species should be to protect nature, not conquer it.

- ☐ Leopold felt that conservationists should play a larger role in shaping the environmental policies of the U.S.
- ☐ Leopold believed that humans have a duty to maintain the environment for future generations.
- ☐ Leopold was one of the first to suggest that humans have conquered much of the natural world.



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**13** If the observation is made that a variety of different objects fall to the ground when dropped from various heights, then inductive reasoning could conclude that all objects fall to Earth's surface when dropped. Though there may be a high degree of certainty in this conclusion, what we are really saying is that all objects that we or other observers have dropped from various heights have fallen to Earth's surface in the past.

- ☐ Inductive reasoning is likely to lead us to draw faulty conclusions.
- ☐ The behavior of an object is dependent on the point of view of the observer.
- ☐ We cannot be absolutely certain that objects dropped at a future date will fall to Earth's surface.



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**14** Before 1861 "United States" was grammatically plural; since 1865 it has been singular. That is, before the Civil War, one said, "The United States are. . ." Since then we have said, "The United States is. . ."

- ☐ Before the Civil War, the United States was considered to be a single entity.
- ☐ It is now considered incorrect to say "The United States are . . ."
- ☐ The Civil War caused several grammatical changes to occur in the United States.



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**15** According to physicist Albert Einstein who was a proponent of intuition and creativity in science, "There is no completely logical way to a new scientific idea."

- ☐ Einstein felt that perception and imagination are key ingredients in the development of new scientific ideas.
- ☐ Einstein would agree that logic is the major driving force behind scientific inquiry.
- ☐ Einstein believed that although intuition and creativity are important for making scientific discoveries, they are not substitutes for logical thinking.