

Arguments exercises

Peter Rowlett

Sorites. A set of premises is given. If a conclusion is given, you should check it. If no conclusion is given, you are asked to find one. These Sorites are all taken from *Symbolic Logic* by Lewis Carroll (1896).

1. “No doctors are enthusiastic”; “You are enthusiastic”. Conclusion: “You are not a doctor”.
2. “All wasps are unfriendly”; “No puppies are unfriendly”. Conclusion: “Puppies are not wasps”.
3. “No monkeys are soldiers”; “All monkeys are mischievous”. Conclusion: “Some mischievous creatures are not soldiers”.
4. “All wise men walk on their feet”; “All unwise men walk on their hands”. Conclusion: “No man walks on both”.
5. “All jokes are meant to amuse”; “No Act of Parliament is a joke”.
6. “No ducks waltz”; “No officers ever decline to waltz”; “All my poultry are ducks”.
7. “No experienced person is incompetent”; “Jenkins is always blundering”; “No competent person is always blundering”.
8. “All puddings are nice”; “This dish is a pudding”; “No nice things are wholesome”.
9. “All unripe fruit is unwholesome”; “All these apples are wholesome”; “No fruit, grown in the shade, is ripe”.
10. “No kitten, that loves fish, is unteachable”; “No kitten without a tail will play with a gorilla”; “Kittens with whiskers always love fish”; “No teachable kitten has green eyes”; “No kittens have tails unless they have whiskers”.
11. “When I work a logic example without grumbling, you may be sure it is one that I can understand”; “These Sorites are not arranged in regular order, like the examples I am used to”; “No easy example ever makes my head ache”; “I can’t understand examples that are not arranged in regular order, like those I am used to”; “I never grumble at an example, unless it gives me a headache”.