

Additional Argument Practice

Identify the conclusion and premise(s) in each of the following arguments:

1. This is a standard deck of playing cards. So if I draw a card at random from it, that card will be a king.
2. We know that the murderer was either Jackson or Harrison. We also know the murderer could not have been Harrison. So, the murderer had to be Jackson.
3. If dogs have more than five legs, then they have more than four legs. Dogs do not have more than five legs. Therefore, dogs do not have more than four legs.
4. Every sample of copper ever examined conducts electricity. So it is a safe bet that this particular piece of copper will conduct electricity when we examine it.
5. Texans must all wear cowboy boots. I went to Houston last Thursday and everyone I saw on the street had boots on.
6. Someone must have been spying on us last night. Look at these footprints in the mud by the window.
7. This fish looks very similar to a trout or a salmon. Since those fish are tasty, this one must be tasty, too.
8. John has to know something about the Roman Empire. After all, everyone who is well educated knows about the existence of the Roman Empire, and John is well educated.
9. Everyone who has ever tried to climb the Matterhorn has experienced terror at some stage of the ascent. Just you wait, Keisha. Sooner or later on your climb you are going to be afraid.
10. If you found a model of the solar system, you'd know that someone made it. How much more obvious it is, then, that the real solar system must have been made by somebody.
11. When a cook can't recall the ingredients in a recipe, it is appropriate that she refresh her memory by consulting the recipe book. Similarly, when a student can't recall the answers during a final exam, it is appropriate that she refresh her memory by consulting her textbook.
12. If the Staples Center is in Los Angeles, then Mt. Kilimanjaro is green. The Staples Center is in Los Angeles. It follows that Mt. Kilimanjaro is green.
13. Since whales are reptiles, and reptiles can fly, it follows that whales can fly.
14. All physicians are individuals who have earned degrees in political science, and some lawyers are physicians. Therefore, some lawyers are persons who have earned degrees in political science.
15. If it is cloudy, then it is raining. It is not cloudy. So, it is not raining.
16. The sun has risen every day since I can remember. It follows that the sun will rise tomorrow.
17. When I wake up in the morning, the world is pretty much the same as I left it the day before. So, today, it will be pretty much the same as it was yesterday.
18. Russell's chicken has been fed every morning since she was a chick. She's gotten used to this routine and so comes to the gate when Russell comes to the coop in the morning. She's really fat from all this eating, and Russell plans to slaughter her when she's nice and plump. She shouldn't come to the gate today because she's probably going to get slaughtered.

19. Lenny has lost every poker game he's played this week. He's a good player, so he'll probably win today.
20. Every time Spike's heard the bell rung he has salivated. It just rung, so he'll start to salivate in seconds.
21. If one studies hard, one will do well. For, if one studies hard, one learns the material, and if one learns the material, one does well.
22. All logicians are loopy people. All loopy people are eccentric. Therefore, all logicians are eccentric.
23. “[It] just so happens that right after I voted for the first time, I landed myself a big fat job in Hollywood, a biopsy came back benign and I met my future wife as soon as I walked out of the voting booth. Coincidence? You decide.” (Larry David, excerpted from *New York Times* editorial.)
24. Hurricane Jean is heading for the Florida coast. The radar pictures show a fierce-looking storm. As a result, Jean is bound to do a lot of damage.
25. ‘You don’t steal purses. You don’t steal televisions. You don’t steal DVDs. So, you shouldn’t illegally download movies from the Internet.’ (paraphrase of pre-film commercial on Internet pirating.)
26. My keys are either in the car or in my jacket. I found a set in my coat. So, they must not be in the car.
27. *Titanic* is just another bit of mindless Hollywood fluff. The characters lack depth and interest, and the plot is so transparent it is hard to see it as anything other than a lame excuse for three hours of razzle-dazzle special effects.
28. Car manufacturers ought to be required — by law if necessary — to produce vehicles that are more fuel-efficient. We are rapidly using up the world’s supply of fossil fuels. Viable alternatives to the gasoline-powered engine are still a long way off. Unless we do everything we can to conserve fossil fuels, the remaining supplies will be depleted long before an alternative is in place.
29. Punishment, when speedy and specific, may suppress undesirable behavior. Punishment cannot teach or encourage desirable alternatives. It is, therefore, crucial to use positive techniques to model and reinforce appropriate behavior that the person can use in place of the unacceptable response that has to be suppressed.
30. Some divorced people are lawyers. Some divorced people are truckers. So some lawyers are truckers.

Instructions: Complete the following arguments by filling in the missing premise or conclusion.

1. Most mistakes can be remedied. Most pollution is a mistake.
2. All capitalists believe in a free-market economy. So, all capitalists favor global trade.
3. If Emily is a doctor, she can cure bronchitis. So, Emily can cure bronchitis.
4. If Emily is a doctor, she can cure bronchitis. So, Emily is not a doctor.
5. You’re not with us. So, you must be against us.
6. The lamp does not work, even though it is plugged in. The light bulb must be burned out.
7. People who are addicted to a substance cannot voluntarily stop using it. Many smokers cannot quit. Therefore, smoking is an addiction.
8. Ted Kennedy could never be elected President. He is divorced.

9. There must be something to Chinese herbal medicine. After all, it's been practiced in Asia for thousands of years.
10. That new blockbuster movie must be doing very well at the box office. I went to see it the other night when it opened and the theater was jam-packed.