

Unit 2. Logic, Rhetoric and argumentation

Alumno:

Clase:

Día:

Ficha 2.1

Human Communication

Language + Reality + Truth

Logic (Deduction)

1. Deductive inferences. Which one is correct?

2. Write 5 more examples of invalid deductive reasoning.

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- All dolphins are mammals, all mammals have kidneys; therefore all dolphins have kidneys.
 - All numbers ending in 0 or 5 are divisible by 5. The number 35 ends with a 5, so it must be divisible by 5.
 - All birds have feathers and all robins are birds. Therefore, robins have feathers.
 - It's dangerous to drive on icy streets. The streets are icy now, so it would be dangerous to drive.
 - All cats have a keen sense of smell. Fluffy is a cat, so Fluffy has a keen sense of smell.
 - Cacti are plants and all plants perform photosynthesis; therefore, cacti perform photosynthesis.
 - Red meat has iron in it and beef is red meat. Therefore, beef has iron in it.
 - Acute angles are less than 90 degrees. This angle is 40 degrees, so it must be acute.
 - All noble gases are stable. Helium is a noble gas, so helium is stable.
 - Elephants have cells in their bodies and all cells have DNA. Therefore, elephants have DNA.
 - All horses have manes. The Arabian is a horse; therefore, Arabians have manes.

Invalid Deductive Reasoning

Even with two solid premises, sometimes, deductive reasoning goes wrong. Here are a few examples of just that:

- All swans are white. Jane is white. Therefore, Jane is a swan.
 - All farmers like burgers. Jethro likes chicken wings. Therefore, Jethro is not a farmer.
 - All actors are handsome. Tom Cruise is handsome. Therefore, Tom Cruise is an actor.
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