



Essentials of Formal Logic

with Joelle Hodge

Lesson 11: Chapter 4.4

Outline:

Chapter 4, Lesson 4.4

- Translating Arguments Step 1, Finding the Propositions
- Translating Propositions to Categorical Form
- Argument: Rational reasons for or against an idea or action, with the intent to persuade.
- Points to Remember
 - Deductive arguments typically have three propositions: the conclusion, which is the point of the argument, and the two premises, which are the evidence for the conclusion.
 - **Conclusion indicators** are words or phrases such as “therefore,” “thus,” “so,” “it follows that,” and “in conclusion” that indicate that the conclusion is about to follow.
 - **Premise indicators** are words or phrases like “since,” “because,” “for these reasons,” and “it follows from,” which indicate that the premises are about to follow.
 - **Propositions contain a subject**, which is what the proposition is about, and a **predicate**, which is the word(s) that come(s) after the verb and describe(s) or rename(s) the subject.
 - To correctly identify the argument, use the natural breaks in the argument, along with premise and conclusion indicators, to locate the three propositions that contain a subject and a predicate and that have a truth-value.
 - We are building a syllogism with two premises and a conclusion.
- “I argue very well. Ask any of my remaining friends. I can win an argument on any topic, against any opponent. People know this, and steer clear of me at parties. Often, as a sign of their great respect, they don’t even invite me.”
Dave Barry
- The first thing we need to do is break up the argument into its three propositions. The clue to finding the breaks between propositions is to look for the natural breaks in grammatical structure by identifying connector words and phrases, as well as the premise and conclusion indicators.
 - All **dogs** are four-legged animals.
 - All **Labrador retrievers** are dogs.
 - It follows that all **Labrador retrievers** are four-legged animals.