



Essentials of Formal Logic

with Joelle Hodge

Lesson 24: Chapter 7.1

Outline:

Chapter 7, Lesson 7.1

- The Syllogism Introduced
- Introduction to Syllogisms and Validity
- Deductive logic's primary concern must be its form (Nate).
- All valid syllogisms contain three—and only three—terms.
- The term that is repeated twice in the premises but is not in the conclusion is called the middle term. The other terms are the major term and the minor term. **The major term is the predicate of the conclusion, and the minor term is the subject of the conclusion.**
- Always find your conclusion first.
- The premise with the major term and the middle term is called the major premise.
- The premise with the minor term and the middle term is called the minor premise.
- So far, we have discussed two key aspects of the form of a syllogism. The first is that a syllogism has three terms: major, minor, and middle. The second is that the middle term connects the major and minor terms.
- Now, it's important for you to understand that the middle term could be arranged in a lot of different ways. For instance, the middle term could be the predicate of both premises or it could be the predicate of the first premise and the subject of the second.
- After all, if the middle term of two different syllogisms is arranged in two different ways, the syllogisms are going to have different arrangements and appearances, even if they are alike in all other aspects. This means the form of the syllogisms would be different.
- I also want you to notice something else about the propositions in the syllogism. Are the propositions all negative, all positive, or a combination of negative and positive?
- What about the quantity of the propositions? Are they universal, particular, or a combination of the two?
- If you had two different syllogisms and they had identical terms, but their propositions were completely different in quality or quantity, then we would certainly say the forms of the syllogisms were different.