

## Challenges in identifying STATEMENTS/CLAIMS

**Statements/Claims:** the assertion of what can be either true or false, acceptable or unacceptable, probable or improbable,...

**TASK:** Assume that the following sentences are used in a typical way.

(a) Number the statements. (b) Identify what is implicit within square brackets.

**EXAMPLE:** Given: The problem with people who lose confidence in reason is not that they end up believing nothing, but that they will believe in anything. Identification of statements:

(1)<The problem with people who lose confidence in reason is not that they end up believing nothing>, but (2)<[The problem with people who lose confidence in reason is that] they will believe in anything>.

1. He who knows nothing doubts nothing.
2. A book that is shut is but a block.
3. Opportunity is missed by most people because it looks like work. Thomas Edison
4. The way of a fool seems right to him/her, but a wise man listens to advice. Proverbs 12:15
5. It is not enough to have a good mind. The main thing is to use it well. René Descartes,

### **Comparisons**

6. Pure and complete sorrow is as impossible as pure and complete joy. Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910)
7. Each man has his fortune in his own hands, as the artist has a piece of rude matter, which he is to fashion into a certain shape. Goethe (1749-1832)
8. Music is an invisible dance, as dancing is a silent music. Jean Paul (1763-1825)

**OR-statements.** Is each sentence using an exclusive-or (one or the other, but not both propositions), OR an inclusive-or (one or the other, and possibly both propositions)?

9. (1)<You are never too old to set another goal or [you are never to old] to dream a new dream>. C.S. Lewis [**inclusive-or: I** ]
10. (1)<Give me liberty or give me death>. Patrick Henry [**exclusive-or: E** ] **Never break up any or-statement.**
11. Excellence is the best deterrent to racism or sexism. Oprah Winfrey
12. The basic law of capitalism: it is either you or I who will win financially.
13. Ego and soul trauma are far worse than any murder, rape, pillage, or plunder. Sylvia Browne
14. Children don't know how to get food, how to get shelter, or how to obtain the money they need for basic supplies.
15. Breast cancer can either be inherited through a mutation in one or more genes, or can occur spontaneously by a non-inherited mechanism.
16. Libraries can either buy expensive printed volumes or purchase inexpensive microfilm versions of the same material.
17. The complete truth has never been and can never be contained in any one religious creed or philosophical system.
18. A gem is **not** polished without friction, **nor** a person perfected without trials. Chinese

**AND-statements:** When does the use of "and" give us distinct statements?

19. (1)<The flag is red, white, and blue>.
20. (1)<A friend is someone who dances with you in the sunlight> and (2)<[a friend is someone who] walks with you in the shadow>.
21. Atheists and theists are not that different from each other, so they might understand better the other by understanding themselves better.
22. The difference between 2 and 1 is just 1.
23. Happiness is a good health and a bad memory. Ingrid Bergman (1817-1982)
24. Some cause happiness wherever they go; and others, whenever they go. Oscar Wilde
25. The only difference between a good shot and a bad shot is if it goes in or not. Charles Barkley
26. Time and thinking tame the strongest grief.
27. Strength is the capacity to break a chocolate bar into four pieces with you bare hands – and then eat just one piece. Judith Viorst
28. The moment of victory is much too short to live for that and nothing else. Martina Navratilova
29. True kindness presupposes the faculty of imagining as one's own the suffering and joys of others. André Gide
30. I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use. Galileo
31. Because the middle and working classes shoulder much of the tax burden for social programs, they tend to develop resentment toward the poor, who are blamed for their own poverty.
33. Ask yourself whether you are happy and you cease to be so.
34. I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand. Chinese proverb
35. Marry and grow tame. Spanish
36. Always say "No!" and you will never be married.

### **Restrictive & non-restrictive Clauses**

37. *The average man, who does not know what to do with his life, wants a life that will last forever.* Anatole France [**non-restrictive clause**]
38. *The average man who does not know what to do with his life wants a life that will last forever.* [**restrictive clause**]
39. The hottest place in hell is reserved for those who, in time of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality. (Dante)
40. In some extremely allergic patients who have severe anaphylactic reaction, skin testing cannot be used because it could evoke a dangerous reaction. [Note that "cannot" in this context is used to mean "should not".]
41. Citizens who would sacrifice their liberties for security, will end up with neither. Benjamin Franklin

### **Conditional Claims**

42. You know you're getting older when the happy hour is a nap.
43. If you want to test a person's character, give him/her power. Abraham Lincoln
44. If you make no promises, you'll need no excuses [for broken promises] William C. Hunter
45. If you wish to be like someone else, you waste the person you are.
46. S/he who strikes the first blow admits that s/he has lost the argument.
47. One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries. A.A. Milne
48. If a person will begin with certainties, s/he will end in doubt; but if s/he will be content to begin with doubts, s/he will end in certainties. Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

49. Pain is the natural phenomenon of life, but it is when we try at all costs to avoid and deny this human experience that we make ourselves suffer.

### Different Kinds of Statements/Claims

**Statements/Claims:** a group of words used to assert a **proposition**, which is what can be true or false, acceptable or unacceptable, or can have any degree of probability or acceptability.

**TASK: Assume that the following sentences are used in a typical way. (a) Number the statements. (b) Identify what is implicit within square brackets. (c) Label each statement.** Examples are given for each kind of statement.

#### Definitional Claims VS Descriptive Claims

1. (1)<Success is the sole earthly judge of right and wrong>. Adolf Hitler [**Definitional: Df** ]
2. (1)<Hatred is self punishment>. [**Descriptive: D** ] [This claim describes a *consequence* of hatred.]
3. Tact consists in knowing how far to go too far. Jean Cocteau
4. A book that is shut is but a block.
5. Commitment is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism. Dr. Joseph M. Juran
6. Glory is the shadow of virtue.
7. Happiness is a choice that requires effort at times.
8. Humanitarianism consists in never sacrificing a human being to a purpose. Albert Schweitzer
9. A narcissist is someone better looking than you are. Gore Vidal
10. Egotist: a person more interested in himself than in me. Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914)
11. Moral indignation is jealousy with a halo. H. G. Wells (1866-1946)

#### Value Claims VS Descriptive Claims

12. (1)<It is advisable to suffer for truth than to prosper by falsehood>. Danish [**Prescriptive: P**, telling us to do something ]
13. (1)<It is morally more praiseworthy to suffer for truth than to prosper by falsehood>. [**Value: V** ]
14. (1)<The advice to suffer for truth than to prosper by falsehood is rarely given>. [**Descriptive: D** ]
15. A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1
16. What is important in life is life, and not the result of life. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German writer, scientist
17. It is a fine thing to have ability, but the ability to discover ability in others is the true test. Elbert Hubbard, philosopher, writer
18. Better to be alone than in bad company.
19. Law controls the lesser person, but right conduct controls the greater person.
20. The tongue has the power of life and death. Proverbs 18:21
21. It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. Fulton J. Sheen
22. It is wiser to be a coward for a minute than dead for the rest of your life.
23. In a full heart there is room for everything, and in an empty heart there is room for nothing. Antonio Porchia
24. The greatest good you can do for another is not just share your riches, but reveal to them their own. Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)
25. A peacock that sits on its tail is just another turkey.
26. Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants.
27. All great deeds and all great thoughts have a ridiculous beginning. Albert Camus
28. We do not judge men by what they are in themselves, but by what they are relatively to us. Anne-Sophie Swetchine (1782-1857)
29. Better to know nothing than learn nothing. Better to do nothing than make nothing.
30. An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. [*Contrast it with: That wall is greener than this one.*]
31. The value of a sentiment is the amount of sacrifice you are prepared to make for it. John Galsworthy
32. Never by hatred is hatred appeased, but is appeased by kindness.
33. Ability gets you to the top, but character keeps you there.
34. It is better to forget than to remember and regret.
35. S/he who lives by the sword dies by the sword.
36. It's better to waste one's youth than to do nothing with it at all. Georges Courteline
37. The great thing to learn about life is, first, not to do what you don't want to do, and, second, to do what you do want to do. Margaret C. Anderson
38. It's not what you drive, but what drives you.  
It's not where you come from, but where you're going.  
It's not what's on you, but what's in you.

#### Prescriptive Claims VS Descriptive Claims

39. (1)<You must work diligently for your own salvation>. Buddha [**Prescriptive: P** ]
40. (1)<There is no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy>. Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-94) [**Descriptive: D** ]
41. The most satisfying thing in life is to have been able to give a large part of one's self to others. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin
42. Be kind. Remember that everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.
43. Always forgive your enemies – nothing annoys them so much. Oscar Wilde
44. Let early education be a sort of amusement; you will then be better able to find out the natural bent. Plato (427-347 BC)
45. You never test the depth of a river with both feet.  
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46. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)
47. I believe in the dignity of labor, whether with head or hand; that the world owes no man a living but that it owes every man an opportunity to make a living. John D. Rockefeller
48. It is the heart that makes a person rich. S/he is rich according to what s/he is, not according to what s/he has. Henry Ward Beecher
49. Laws are like spiders' webs, which stand firm when any light, yielding object falls upon them, while a larger thing breaks through them and escapes. Solon (c638-559 B.C.)
50. Life is like music; it must be composed by ear, feeling and instinct, not by rule. Samuel Butler (c.1612-80)
51. The world is full of wonders and miracles but man takes his little hand and covers his eyes and sees nothing—Israel Baal Shems
52. Many people despise wealth, but they still desire it, and few know how to give it away once they have it.