ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Drawing conclusions

Difficulty level: Intermediate

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you put together everything a passage says to work out what it really means. A news article might never say its conclusion outright, but the facts it gives point to one. You weigh what is said, what is left out, and what follows from both. It is the skill that stops you from sharing a story you have not really understood.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q **Conclude: Every morning, the bus arrived at 8. On Monday it arrived at 8, on Tuesday at 8, and on Wednesday at 8. What can you conclude?**

SOLUTION

Gather all the details: Monday 8, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 8.

Look for the pattern: the bus always arrives at 8.

So the conclusion is: the bus usually arrives at 8 in the morning.

EXAMPLE 2

Q **Conclude: Sara watered the plant daily, but it stayed in a dark cupboard. The plant wilted. What can you conclude?**

SOLUTION

Gather all the details: watered daily, kept in the dark, wilted.

Water alone did not save it, so light must matter too.

So the conclusion is: plants need light as well as water.

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Practice questions

1 **Conclude: Tom practised every day and his times kept improving. What can you conclude?**

- **A** Tom practised too little.
- **B** Practice improves performance.
- **C** Practice makes no difference.
- **D** Tom's times got worse.

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2

Conclude: The shop lowered its prices and more customers came. What can you conclude?

A Higher prices attracted more customers.

B The shop sold fewer goods.

C Lower prices attracted more customers.

D Customers stopped coming to the shop.

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3 **Conclude: Ana read every night and her vocabulary grew. What can you conclude?**

- **A** Regular reading builds vocabulary.
- **B** Reading every night shrinks vocabulary.
- **C** Ana stopped reading.
- **D** Reading has no effect on vocabulary.

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4 **Conclude: The ice melted when the sun came out. What can you conclude?**

- **A** Cold melts ice.
- **B** The sun froze the ice.
- **C** The ice melted because it rained.
- **D** Sunlight (heat) melts ice.

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5 Conclude: Ben ate only candy for lunch and felt sick after. What can you conclude?

- **A** Eating only candy makes you feel well.
- **B** Eating only candy can make you feel sick.
- **C** Candy is the healthiest lunch.
- **D** Ben felt sick because he ran fast.

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6 Conclude: The class recycled paper and the bins filled quickly. What can you conclude?

- **A** The class recycled a lot of paper.
- **B** The class recycled no paper.
- **C** The class threw all its paper away.
- **D** The bins stayed empty.

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7

Conclude: Mia saved money each week and bought a bike in summer. What can you conclude?

A Saving money means you can never buy anything.

B Mia spent all her money at once.

C Saving regularly lets you afford a larger purchase.

D Saving a little each week buys nothing.

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8 **Conclude: The dog barked at strangers but wagged its tail at family. What can you conclude?**

- **A** The dog treated everyone the same.
- **B** The dog barked at family and wagged its tail at strangers.
- **C** The dog slept all day.
- **D** The dog reacted differently to strangers and family.

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9 **Conclude: The plant in sunlight grew taller than the plant in shade. What can you conclude?**

- **A** Sunlight stops plants growing.
- **B** Sunlight helps plants grow taller.
- **C** Shade makes plants grow taller.
- **D** Plants grow the same in sun and shade.

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10

Conclude: Sara studied, slept well, and passed. What can you conclude?

A Preparation (study and rest) helped Sara pass.

B Sara passed without studying.

C Sleeping well made Sara fail.

D Studying had nothing to do with passing.

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ANSWER KEY

1. Practice improves performance.
2. Lower prices attracted more customers.
3. Regular reading builds vocabulary.
4. Sunlight (heat) melts ice.
5. Eating only candy can make you feel sick.
6. The class recycled a lot of paper.
7. Saving regularly lets you afford a larger purchase.
8. The dog reacted differently to strangers and family.
9. Sunlight helps plants grow taller.
10. Preparation (study and rest) helped Sara pass.

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