

Play: *Sherlock Holmes* • Issue: November 2, 2009

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Solving Syllogisms

Sherlock Holmes uses deductive reasoning to solve mysteries. A **syllogism** (SIH-luh-jih-zum) is one form of deductive reasoning. Syllogisms present certain assumptions from which you can draw a conclusion.

Directions: To practice your deductive reasoning skills, determine if each syllogism is **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

EXAMPLE OF A **TRUE** SYLLOGISM

All mammals are warm-blooded.
All dogs are mammals.
Therefore, all dogs are warm-blooded.

EXAMPLE OF A **FALSE** SYLLOGISM

All Londoners are European.
No Parisians are Londoners.
Therefore, no Parisians are European.

- _____ 1. All birds have feathers.
All robins are birds.
Therefore, robins have feathers.
- _____ 2. Jacob lives in Cleveland, Ohio.
Jacob is currently in Ohio.
Therefore, Jacob is in Cleveland.
- _____ 3. Matt watches most White Sox games.
The White Sox played last night.
Therefore, Matt watched the game.
- _____ 4. If you study hard, you will probably get good grades.
Isabel studied really hard for her history test.
Therefore, she will definitely get an "A."
- _____ 5. Everyone at Harding High School who has pink hair also has a pet dog.
Olivia goes to Harding School and has pink hair.
Therefore, Olivia must have a pet dog.
- _____ 6. All of Sarah's cats have orange fur.
Sarah gave one of her cats to Jessica.
Therefore, Jessica now has an orange cat.
- _____ 7. It is a law that passengers in cars must wear seat belts.
Ella never breaks the law.
Therefore, Ella always wears her seat belt when riding in a car.