

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Deduce Like Sherlock

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Sherlock Holmes uses deductive reasoning to solve many of his cases. A syllogism (SIH-luh-jih-zum) is a form of deductive reasoning. Syllogisms present certain facts or pieces of evidence from which you can draw a conclusion.

Example:

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

Directions: To practice your deductive reasoning skills, solve the syllogisms below. Circle the correct answer in each question.

- Celia never misses a Lakers game. The Lakers are playing a game tonight. Which of the following statements is true?
 - Celia will play with the Lakers.
 - Celia's favorite team is the Lakers.
 - Celia will watch the Lakers game tonight.
 - More information is needed.
- All ferrets are mammals. All mammals are vertebrates. Gregory is a mammal. What can you deduce about Gregory?
 - Gregory is a ferret but not necessarily a vertebrate.
 - Gregory is a vertebrate but not necessarily a ferret.
 - Gregory is a ferret and a vertebrate.
 - More information is needed.
- Everyone at the park has orange hair. Everyone with orange hair has a turtle. Joshua has orange hair. What can you deduce about Joshua?
 - He is at the park.
 - He has a turtle.
 - He is at the park, and he has a turtle.
 - More information is needed.
- All dogs bark. All terriers are dogs. Which of the following statements is true?
 - All terriers bark.
 - All dogs are terriers.
 - Barking is unique to dogs.
 - More information is needed.
- T-shirts are comfortable. T-shirts are inexpensive. Jake's shirt is comfortable. What can you deduce about Jake's shirt?
 - Jake is wearing a T-shirt.
 - Jake's shirt is inexpensive.
 - Jake's shirt is an inexpensive T-shirt.
 - More information is needed.
- Charlie eats only sausage pizza. Kendra loves pizza, but she's a vegetarian. The school cafeteria is serving cheese pizza for lunch. Charlie and Kendra are eating lunch in the cafeteria. Which of the following statements is true?
 - Neither Kendra nor Charlie will eat the school pizza.
 - Both Kendra and Charlie will eat the school pizza.
 - Only Kendra will eat the school pizza.
 - Only Charlie will eat the school pizza.