

1.4.1. Combo Sentence Problems

A. For each of the following combo sentences, decide which part is the premise, and which the conclusion; and restate the argument in **standard form**.

1. “Since nobody can become a Taoist by studying, the master referred to here acts solely according to his Te and the example it gives him.”

– Max Kaltenmark, **Lao Tzu and Taoism** (translated Rover Greaves; Stanford University Press, 1969), p. 58

2. “The Birthday Soup is hot, so we must eat it now.”

– Little Bear, in Else Holmelund Minarik, **Adventures of Little Bear** (Harper Collins, 1957), p. 29.

3. “To ‘buck’ logs was to saw them into proper lengths; hence, the buck saw is a woodsman's saw.”

– Eric Sloane, **A Museum of Early American Tools** (Ballentine Books, 1964), p. 66

4. “Leon Battista Alberti stands somewhat outside the close-knit group of Brunelleschi, Donatello, and Masaccio, since he was not born until about 1404 in Genoa, and was the last to die, in 1472.”

– Peter and Linda Murphy, **The Art of the Renaissance** (Praeger Publishers, 1963), p. 60.

5. “Since plants do not even have the power of perception, ‘good’ and ‘evil’ are not applicable to them.”

– Epictetus, **Discourses** Book II Chapter 8 (trans. Robert Dobbin; Penguin), p. 92

6. The cat is home, so the cat food dish must be empty.

7. The cat must be home, since the cat food dish is empty.

8. “Such a jamming turn should never be taken with any rope that may need to be freed in a hurry, e.g. the sheet of a sail, for it may have jammed so tightly as to defy quick release.”

– Charles E. Gibson, **Handbook of Knots and Splices** (Barnes and Noble, 1961), p. 29

9. “Fatalism, whose solving word in all crises of behavior is ‘All striving is vain,’ will never reign supreme, for the impulse to take life strivingly is indestructible in the race.”

– William James, “The Sentiment of Rationality”

10. “Each petition having attracted more than 25,000 names, the White House was obliged to respond.”

– “White House Answers Petitions Demanding Secession from Union: ‘No’” **The Guardian**, January 12 2013

11. “Attention being the condition of analysis, and separate imagination being the condition of attention, it follows... that separate imagination is the condition of analysis.”

– William James, “Discrimination,” in **Psychology: Briefer Course** (1892)

12. “The theory being set forth, but not yet refuted, Borelli seems to have the advantage of being able to explain variations in the speed of planets in their orbits, that is to say, to explain why they move rapidly when close to the Sun, and more slowly farther away....”

– Alexandre Koyre, **The Astronomical Revolution** (1961) (translated R.E.W Maddison; Cornell University Press: 1973), p. 485

B. Each of the following arguments contains a **combo sentence**, and an **additional premise**. State each argument in **standard form** (making sure, in standard form, to break the combo sentence into its two separate parts).

1. “It is not surprising that some of the most spritely examples [of folk figures] are concentrated in the New England area, for it was here that the idea, already centuries old in Europe, was first transplanted to these shores. It was here, too, that the custom thrived and developed a distinctly American style before traveling westward on the waves of land-hungry immigrants.”

– Avon Neal and Ann Parker, **Ephemeral Folk Figures** (Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1969), p. 12.

2. We only have one extra ticket to Italian film festival. So since Ace prefers Swedish films, we should give the ticket to Jake.

3. Whoever broke into the cafeteria stole a side of ham and 10 pounds of shrimp. So Rex couldn’t be the burglar, since he’s allergic to shrimp.

(Question: what’s unusual about this argument?)

4. “There seems little chance that a conventional war between nuclear powers could stay limited. And this means that a conventional war between nuclear powers must not even be begun, since it threatens the same holocaust that the limited use of nuclear weapons threatens.”

–Jonathan Schell, **The Fate of the Earth**

(Question: what’s unusual about this argument?)