

1.4.1. Combo Sentence Problems

A. For each of the following combo sentences, decide which part is the premise, and which the conclusion; then 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** p. 58

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

– Little Bear, in Else Holmelund Minarik, **Adventures of Little Bear** 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** 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** p. 60

(Feel free to break the “and” sentence into two sentences.)

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 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** 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. “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) p. 485

B. Each of the following arguments contains two premises: either a **combo sentence** and an **additional premise**, or a **combo sentence containing more than one premise**. State each argument in **standard form** (making sure, in standard form, to break the combo sentence into its 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** p. 12

2. Whoever broke into the cafeteria stole a ham and 10 pounds of shrimp. So Jake can’t be the burglar, given that he’s allergic to shrimp.

3. Kitty will only win the hand if she has a kong of red dragons. So she needs to draw a joker to win, since one red dragon was already played.

4. We only have one extra ticket to the Swedish film festival. So since Letitia prefers Italian films, we should give the ticket to Lucretia.

5. “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**

6. “Every being, which during its natural lifetime produces several eggs or seeds, must suffer destruction during some part of its life... otherwise, on the principle of geometrical increase, its numbers would quickly become so inordinately great that no country could support the product. Hence, as more individuals are produced than can possibly survive, there must in every case be a struggle for existence, one individual with another of the same species, or with the individuals of distinct species, or with the physical conditions of life.”

– Charles Darwin, **On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection** (1859), [63]

7. “Someone sings, so someone paints, for all singers paint.”

– Richard Jeffrey, **Formal Logic: Its Scope and Limits**, Third Edition p. 48

8. “The term ‘centaur’ is true of each centaur and nothing else, hence true of nothing at all, there being no centaurs.”

– W.V. Quine, **Methods of Logic** p. 94

9. “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)

(Feel free to break the “and” sentence into separate sentences.)

10. The person serving as bowling lifeguard must live within Lincoln County. That means Trixie, being a resident of Clark County, is ineligible for the position.

11. “Science, seriously undertaken, can never be purely practical, not only because practical questions need theoretical understanding for their solution, but also because the scientific mind simply does not function in such an exclusively practical way.”

– Dirk Struik, **Yankee Science in the Making** p. 52

(Feel free to break the “but” sentence into separate sentences.)

12. “About these sciences, since they are actually given, it can appropriately be asked **how** they are possible; for that they must be possible is proved through their actuality.”

– Immanuel Kant, **Critique of Pure Reason** B20