

# Arguments

Michael Palin (who plays “Man”) proposes a definition of “argument”:

D1: An argument is a connected series of statements [intended] to establish a definite proposition.

D2: An argument is a connected series of statements intended to establish another statement.

Example 1:

1. Socrates is a man.
2. All men are mortal.
3. Therefore, Socrates is mortal.

Example 2:

1. The moon is made of green cheese.
2. Tabitha Soren was the best thing about MTV in the early 90's.
3. Therefore, the earth is flat.

D3: An argument is a series of statements intended to establish another statement.

More definitions:

The statement the argument is intended to establish the **conclusion**. The **premises** of an argument are the statements that are intended to establish its conclusion.

- A **good** argument is one with the following two features: (1) the premises provide sufficient reason to believe the conclusion; (2) there is sufficient reason to believe the premises.

- An argument is **deductively valid** if it is **logically impossible** for its premises to be true and its conclusion false.

1. Write down a valid argument with at least two premises.
2. Write down a valid argument with at least two premises and at least one false premise.
3. Write down an argument that is (i) not valid, but (ii) still good.

[Make sure to put your name on your assignment!]