

Tutorial A01 Answer Key

A01.4 Exercises

Do these passages contain arguments? If so, what are their conclusions?

- Cutting the interest rate will have no effect on the stock market this time round as people have been expecting a rate cut all along. This factor has already been reflected in the market.

Answer: Yes, this passage contains an argument. The conclusion is that this time, cutting interest rates will have no effect on the stock market.

- So it is raining heavily and this building might collapse. But I don't really care.

Answer: No, this is not an argument. Although the first statement starts with “so” it does not indicate a conclusion.

- Virgin would then dominate the rail system. Is that something the government should worry about? Not necessarily. The industry is regulated, and one powerful company might at least offer a more coherent schedule of services than the present arrangement has produced. The reason the industry was broken up into more than 100 companies at privatization was not operational, but political: the Conservative government thought it would thus be harder to renationalize. *The Economist* 16.12.2000

Answer: Yes, this passage contains an argument. The main conclusion is that the domination of the rail system by Virgin is not something the government should worry about.

- Bill will pay the ransom. After all, he loves his wife and children and would do everything to save them.

Answer: Yes, this passage contains an argument. The first statement is the conclusion.

- All of Russia's problems of human rights and democracy come back to three things: the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary. None works as well as it should. Parliament passes laws in a hurry, and has neither the ability nor the will to call high officials to account. State officials abuse human rights (either on their own, or on orders from on high) and work with remarkable slowness and disorganization. The courts almost completely fail in their role as the ultimate safeguard of freedom and order. *The Economist* 25.11.2000

Answer: Yes, this passage contains an argument. The conclusion is that the legislative, executive, and judicial systems in Russia are not working properly.

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- Most mornings, Park Chang Woo arrives at a train station in central Seoul, South Korea's capital. But he is not commuter. He is unemployed and goes there to kill time. Around him, dozens of jobless people pass their days drinking soju, a local version of vodka. For the moment, middle-aged Mr. Park would rather read a newspaper. He used to be a brick layer for a small construction company in Pusan, a southern port city. But three years ago the country's financial crisis cost him that job, so he came to Seoul, leaving his wife and two children behind. Still looking for work, he has little hope of going home any time soon. *The Economist* 25 .11.2000

Answer: This is not an argument.

- For a long time, astronomers suspected that Europa, one of Jupiter's many moons, might harbor a watery ocean beneath its ice-covered surface. They were right. Now the technique used earlier this year to demonstrate the existence of the Europan ocean has been employed to detect an ocean on another Jovian satellite, Ganymede, according to work announced at the recent American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco. *The Economist* 16.12.2000

Answer: This is not an argument.

- There are no hard numbers, but the evidence from Asia's expatriate community is unequivocal. Three years after its handover from Britain to China, Hong Kong is unlearning English. The city's gweilos (Cantonese for "ghost men") must go to ever greater lengths to catch the oldest taxi driver available to maximize their chances of comprehension. Hotel managers are complaining that they can no longer find enough English-speakers to act as receptionists. Departing tourists, polled at the airport, voice growing frustration at not being understood. *The Economist* 20.1.2001

Answer: Yes, this passage contains an argument. The conclusion is that English standards are dropping in Hong Kong.