

Arguments

An argument is a sequence of sentences, the last of which (the conclusion) is supposed to follow from the others (the premises).

Some Sample Arguments

- A. 1. The Bible says that God exists.
2. If the Bible says that God exists, then God exists.
3. Therefore, God exists.
- B. 1. If the Bible says that God exists, then God exists.
2. The Bible says that God exists.
3. Therefore, God exists.
- C. 1. The Bible says that Porky Pig exists.
2. If the Bible says that Porky Pig exists, then Porky Pig exists.
3. Therefore, Porky Pig exists.
- D. 1. The Bible says that Porky Pig exists.
2. The Bible is the word of God.
3. Therefore, Porky Pig exists.

D1: Argument A is valid =df. in virtue of A's logical form, A's conclusion must be true, if A's premises are all true.

D2: Argument A is sound =df. (1) A is valid, and (2) all of A's premises are true.

Some Common Valid Argument Forms

Modus Ponens

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. P | 1. if P, then Q |
| 2. if P, then Q | 2. P |
| 3. therefore, Q | 3. therefore, Q |

Multiple Modus Ponens

1. P
2. if P, then Q
3. if Q, then R
4. therefore, R

Modus Tollens

1. if P, then Q
2. not-Q
3. therefore, not-P