

## Non Sequitur ORAL Practice Examples

*In each case, answer No Technique, Non Sequitur, or Faulty Analogy.*

1. If San Francisco is in California, then San Francisco is in Russia.  
San Francisco is not in Russia.  
Therefore, San Francisco is not in California.  
Answer: No Technique (Law of Contrapositive)
2. All birds fly.  
All eagles fly.  
Therefore, all eagles are birds.  
Answer: Faulty Analogy
3. An even number bigger than two can't be a prime number.  
Since 38 is even, it's not prime.  
Answer: No Technique (Rule of Detachment)
4. If the president's diplomacy succeeds, war will be avoided.  
War has been avoided.  
Therefore, the president's diplomacy has succeeded.  
Answer: Non Sequitur
5. She's either beautiful or dumb.  
She's not dumb.  
Therefore, she's beautiful.  
Answer: No Technique (Disjunctive Syllogism)
6. I knew going into the history final that if I aced it, I'd make an A for the course.  
And an A for the course meant I graduate with honors.  
Well, I aced the history final. Give me that honors diploma!  
Answer: No Technique (Hypothetical Syllogism)
7. Everyone who understands the art of diplomacy is a great statesman.  
Caesar understood the art of diplomacy.  
Therefore, Caesar was a great statesman.  
Answer: No Technique (Rule of Detachment)
8. Either she really loves me, or she lied to me.  
I know she loves me.  
So there's no way she lied to me.  
Answer: No Technique (Disjunctive Syllogism)
9. Ted: "Joey's mom said he could come to the game only if he cut the grass."  
Billy: "But Joey's not at the game. I looked everywhere for him."  
Ted: "I said he was going to cut the grass. His mom must have changed her mind."  
Answer: Non Sequitur
10. Birthday party host: "You can have cake or ice cream."  
Guest: "I'll take cake."  
Host: "You're one of the few people I know who doesn't like ice cream."  
Answer: Non Sequitur

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11. If the maid did not have a key, then she should not be considered a suspect.  
Since she in fact did not have a key, she is not a suspect.  
Answer: No Technique (Rule of Detachment)
12. Either you completed the last assignment, or you failed the course.  
You failed the course.  
So you must not have completed the last assignment.  
Answer: Non Sequitur
13. All Communists are Russians.  
All radicals are Communists.  
Therefore, all radicals are Russians.  
Answer: No Technique (Hypothetical Syllogism)
14. I have enough money to go to the movies or the ballgame but not both.  
I think I'll go to the movies.  
So I'll call Jimmy and tell him I won't go to the ball game with him.  
Answer: No Technique (Disjunctive Syllogism)
15. Anyone who is good is likeable, so you are likeable because you are good.  
Answer: No Technique (Rule of Detachment)
16. No prizefighters are amateurs.  
But all college athletes are amateurs.  
Therefore, no college athletes are prizefighters.  
Answer: No Technique (Law of Contrapositive)
17. All men are mortal.  
Hence, Socrates must be mortal, for he is a man.  
Answer: No Technique (Rule of Detachment)
18. If a person commits a crime, they shouldn't be allowed to have a gun.  
Likewise, a person who commits a crime shouldn't be allowed to vote.  
So if a person can't have a gun, they shouldn't vote either.  
Answer: Non Sequitur
19. Knowing that, if his wife's car broke down, she will be hours late, Tom concludes that her car must have broken down because she should have been home hours ago.  
Answer: Non Sequitur
20. Paul was a Jew, because all the Apostles were Jews, and Paul was an Apostle.  
Answer: No Technique (Rule of Detachment)
21. All criminals had difficult childhoods.  
All orphans had difficult childhoods.  
So all orphans are criminals.  
Answer: Faulty Analogy

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- 22.** Either Bill or Sam left the bathroom in a mess.  
It can't be Sam because he's not home yet.  
Bill! Get in here and clean up the mess you made!  
Answer: No Technique (Disjunctive Syllogism)
- 23.** If he's as stupid as you say, there's no way he could be elected class president. But he got elected. So he's not as stupid as you think.  
Answer: No Technique (Law of Contrapositive)
- 24.** Going by what Tom said, either he eats cannelloni when he goes to Italian restaurants or he eats Moo Shi pork when goes to a Chinese restaurant. Because we found out that he eats cannelloni when he goes to Italian restaurants, that means he doesn't eat Moo Shi pork when he goes to Chinese restaurants.  
Answer: Non Sequitur
- 25.** Aryans are destined to possess the world.  
Chinese are not Aryans.  
Hence, Chinese are not destined to possess the world.  
Answer: Non Sequitur
- 26.** People who don't like baseball are not true Americans because baseball is the American Pastime and every true America likes the nation's pastime.  
Answer: No Technique (Law of Contrapositive)
- 27.** Jessica and her friend Rebecca are discussing their courses for next year.  
Jessica: "We can take either Creative Writing or Computer Science as our one elective."  
Rebecca: "I need Computer Science to graduate."  
Jessica: "That's too bad. I was looking forward to being in Creative Writing together."  
Answer: No Technique (Disjunctive Syllogism)
- 28.** Everyone who wears a tuxedo is civilized, and since no zombies wear tuxedos, no zombies are civilized.  
Answer: Non Sequitur
- 29.** If Caracas is in Venezuela, then it's in South America.  
If Caracas is in South America, it's below the Equator.  
Caracas is in Venezuela.  
So Caracas is below the Equator.  
Answer: No Technique (Hypothetical Syllogism)
- 30.** Greg: "Did the Yankees win?"  
Sam: "Yes! 6-4"  
Greg: "So they won the pennant, right?"  
Sam: "You bet. They knew going into the game that a victory would clinch the pennant. So they pulled out every stop."  
Answer: No Technique (Rule of Detachment)

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31. All uneducated people are shallow.  
Students are all educated.  
Hence no students are shallow.  
Answer: Non Sequitur
32. Joe: "Sam, you smoke Majors, and Majors are the thinking man's cigar. So you must be a thinking man."  
Answer: No Technique (Rule of Detachment)
33. If Steve Martin is a candidate for president, he's a U.S. citizen.  
But Steve Martin is not a candidate for president.  
And here I thought he *was* a U.S. citizen.  
Answer: Non Sequitur