

Non Sequitur WRITTEN Practice Examples

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

NAME _____

1. If Sylvester is innocent, then his alibi will stand up.
But his alibi does not stand up.
Therefore, Sylvester is guilty.
Answer: _____
2. An even number bigger than two can't be a prime number.
37 is an odd number.
So 37 is prime.
Answer: _____
3. Joey's mom said he could go to the game only if he cut the grass first.
He's here at the game.
Hey, Joey, how long did it take you to cut the grass?
Answer: _____
4. Jenny to her friend Susan: "My mother promised me a new smart phone if I made an A in math tomorrow."
Two days later, Susan sees Jenny. "Did you get the new phone?"
Jenny: "No, I didn't."
Susan: "Jenny, I can't believe you didn't make that A. You studied so hard."
Answer: _____
5. Teacher to class: "If you want to get on my good side, be on time to class, go right to your place, and do what I tell you."
At the first Parents Club meeting, the teacher tells Mrs. Smith: "So far, your son has done everything I've asked of him. I have no complaints."
Answer: _____
6. The last time we had a full moon, I got an A on a biology test. A full moon is scheduled for Friday when Mr. Stonebreaker gives his next biology test. I just know I'll get an A on it!
Answer: _____
7. Majoring in chemistry or math in college guarantees you a good income.
And a good income will allow you to retire early.
So study chemistry or math and shorten your working life!
Answer: _____
8. One student to another after a test: "The second question asked whether Riga was in Poland or Estonia. I knew it wasn't in Poland; so I put that it was in Estonia."
Answer: _____
9. Wife to husband: "I'll take the kids on a picnic today only if the sun comes out."
When the husband comes home at the end of the day, he says, "The sun came out. How did you and the kids enjoy the picnic?"
Answer: _____

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10. 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: _____
11. 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: _____
12. Teacher to class: "If you want to get on my good side, be on time to class, go right to your place, and do what I tell you."
At the first Parents Club meeting, the teacher tells Mrs. Smith: "So far, your son has done everything I've asked of him. I have no complaints."
Answer: _____
13. Teacher to parent: "A student who's failing is either unintelligent or inattentive. Your son, who's failing, is intelligent. So he's not paying attention."
Answer: _____
14. Jim: "Harvey's devastated."
Marilyn: "He must have lost his girlfriend because if he and Susie broke up, he'd be devastated."
Answer: _____
15. To run for President, you must be at least 35 years old and a natural born citizen.
Hillary Trump is 37 years old.
So Hillary can run for President.
Answer: _____
16. President to vice-president: "If my diplomacy succeeds, war will be avoided."
The next day, the president calls the vice-president. "We have to get ready for war."
Vice-president: "Mr. President, I'm so sorry your diplomacy didn't work."
Answer: _____
17. If a balanced Federal budget is necessary, then either Congress must act or the President must use his influence to get the necessary law passed.
Since Congress refuses to act, the President must step in.
Answer: _____
18. Mary: "If you don't drink or smoke, you'll live to a ripe old age."
Sue: "My grandmother is 90 today."
Mary: "Obviously she has avoided alcohol and cigarettes."
Answer: _____
19. The last time we beat Greenville at their stadium, it was a rainy night. Rain is predicted when we play them there tonight. I'm confident we'll win.
Answer: _____

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20. His future with the company can no longer be assured. If he married the boss's daughter, his future was assured, but he stupidly didn't marry her.

Answer: _____

21. I won't waste my vote on a third party candidate for president.
But I just can't bring myself to vote for the Republican candidate.
So I guess I'll vote for the Democrat.

Answer: _____

22. If you run from the police, you're admitting guilt.
When the police came to question the Haitian suspect, he tried to flee.
So the Haitian is guilty.

Answer: _____

23. Aryans are destined to possess the world.
Chinese are not Aryans.
Hence, Chinese are not destined to possess the world.

Answer: _____

24. No athletes make good student council leaders because student council leaders must devote lots of time to the job, and athletes don't have lots of time.

Answer: _____

25. None but citizens may vote. So you are not a citizen since you are not a voter.

Answer: _____

26. If we shorten the sentence for possession of marijuana, we will reduce the number of people in prison.
If we reduce the number of people in prison, we will save money.
Since our state faces a financial crisis, we need to shorten the sentence for possession of marijuana.

Answer: _____

27. 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: _____

28. London is in either France or Argentina.
London is not in France.
So London is in Argentina.

Answer: _____

29. If it's a rat, it's a mammal.
If it's a horse, it's a mammal.
So if it's a rat, it's a horse.

Answer: _____

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

- 30.** Since theft is a criminal action and all criminal actions ought to be punished by law, theft should be punished by law.

Answer: _____

- 31.** We just found out that our son didn't get into Harvard or Yale. If he was going to Harvard or Yale, he would be going to one of the best universities in the country. But now he must abandon his hope of going to one of the best universities in the country.

Answer: _____

- 32.** Joe: "Sam, you smoke Majors, and Majors are the thinking man's cigar. So you must be a thinking man."

Answer: _____

- 33.** We can all agree that theft is a crime.
But theft was encouraged by the laws of Sparta.
Therefore, the laws of Sparta encouraged crime.

Answer: _____