

# SYLLOGISM CREATOR WORKSHEET

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## What is a syllogism?

Syllogism is a model used to visualize a form of deductive reasoning logic/reasoning. It contains a major and minor premise, as well as a conclusion. It can be modelled this way:

- All A are B
- All B are C
- Therefore, All C are A.

To create a syllogism, **first make a broad statement (major premise)**. An example of a broad statement would be, “**All countertops are made of wood**”.

**Second, you need to create a linking statement (minor premise)** that cites an example of how the first statement is validated. For example, “**The Owens own a house with a countertop**”. The word “countertop” is the link between the major and minor premise.

**Finally, create a conclusion that connects the major and minor premises.** Often conclusions are prefaced with the statement, “Therefore”. For example, “**Therefore, the Owens countertop is made of wood.**”

Now that you know how a syllogism is made, let’s work on creating your own.

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## Exercise 1 - Create 3 Major Premises

Write four broad statements (major premises). These statements can be true or false. Keep your statements simple. Usually, generalizations are a good starting point for major premises. For example, “all chickens eat worms” or “all sofas are soft”.

Major Premise 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Major Premise 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Major Premise 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 2 - Create 3 Minor Premises

Write three linking statements (minor premises) to your major premises. Usually, one word will create the link between your major and minor premise. A good way to think of the linking statement is to consider that they are examples of your major premises. For example, “all chickens eat worms”(major premise), can be linked by a specific example, “Sam eats worms” (minor premise).

Minor Premise 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Minor Premise 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Minor Premise 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 3 - Create 3 Conclusions

Write three conclusions that link your major and minor premises. Start your conclusion with the word “therefore”. The conclusion should come full circle to your major premise. For example, “Since all chickens eat worms, and Sam eats worms, Therefore, Sam is a chicken”.

Conclusion 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion 3 \_\_\_\_\_

It might take some time, but the more you practice creating syllogisms, the more you can detect faulty logic and arguments that involve deductive reasoning.