

## Making Arguments Practice

Practice 1. Describe the argument in these sentences. Use the simple sentence pattern.

1. Given that these pills are all natural, they are totally safe.
2. There's probably no God, so stop worrying and enjoy your life.
3. Smoking is unhealthy, since it can cause cancer. Furthermore, it also increases the chance of heart attacks and strokes.
4. I should not buy a car at the moment. I have just lost my driver's license, and besides, I can't afford it.

Practice 2. Read the text. Use the simple sentence pattern to describe the main argument.

Most Americans eat at fast-food establishments more than once a week. Many researchers agree that these eating habits are the leading cause of obesity in the U.S. Obesity-related diseases such as diabetes and hypertension cost our health care system billions of dollars each year. Whether through health care insurance premiums or taxes, everyone suffers the consequences even if you eat only healthful, home-cooked meals.

Therefore, we should impose a small tax on every high-calorie meal served at fast-food chains. This would not only offset obesity-related health care costs, but encourage consumers to seek out healthy food options.

Practice 3. Find the claims and premises by using the simple sentence pattern.

1. Since light takes time to reach our eyes, everything we see actually existed in the past.
2. Guns don't kill people, people kill people. Therefore, there is no reason to ban assault rifles.
3. You know how I know animals have souls? Because, on average, the lowest animal is a lot nicer than most human beings.

Bonus: Facts and Inferences. Read the following scenarios. Make two inferences for each situation.

1. A man is looking in his wife's closet for a missing shoe. He notices a new, expensive man's jacket hanging in the closet.
2. You are driving through a mountain valley on a four lane highway in a rainstorm. You notice that about half of the on-coming cars have their headlights on.
3. You have received no mail for the past two weeks.