

Exercise: Inferences And Observations

Inference Awareness Test

Created by Dr. Karl Albrecht, credit to Prof. Wm. Haney.

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The following report gives some information that is acceptable as true. Read the account of the situation very carefully. Then read the statements that follow the report. Decide whether each statement is True, False, or not verifiable from the information given in the story. Circle "T" if you can prove the statement True from the story; circle "F" if you can prove the statement False from the story. If a statement is not definitely True or definitely False, circle the "?". Once you have answered a question, do not change your answer. You may refer back to the story as often as you like.

The Incident

The safe in the cafeteria office of Apollo Company was found standing open. Company security has questioned 3 employees in connection with a sum of \$1500, which is unaccounted for. All 3 of the employees questioned knew the combination to the office safe. It has been determined that one of these employees, Joe A, was on vacation for the entire week during which the incident occurred. Another employee, Jane B, has refused to make any statements and has insisted on talking to a lawyer. The third employee, Jim C, has volunteered to take a lie detector test. Company security is considering calling in the police.

Statements About the Incident

1. All 3 of the employees questioned knew the combination to the safe. T F ?
2. All 3 of the questioned employees have denied taking the money. T F ?
3. Joe A did not take the money. T F ?
4. Jane B has refused to cooperate with the investigation. T F ?
5. Joe A has volunteered to take a lie detector test. T F ?
6. Only Joe A, Jane B, and Jim C knew how to open the office safe. T F ?
7. \$1500 was stolen from the office safe. T F ?
8. Whoever robbed the office safe left it standing open. T F ?
9. The thief has not yet been identified. T F ?
10. Either Joe A, Jane B, or Jim C stole \$1500 from the cafeteria office safe at Apollo Company. T F ?

For Instructor's Use Only:

1. Statement 1 is true, verifiable verbatim from the story.
2. Statement 2 cannot be verified or refuted from the information in the story; it would have to be categorized as an inference.
3. Statement 3 cannot be verified or refuted from the information in the story; it would have to be categorized as an inference.
4. Statement 4 cannot be verified or refuted from the information in the story; it would have to be categorized as an inference, or at most a value judgment based on her action.
5. Statement 5 cannot be verified or refuted from the information in the story; it would have to be categorized as an inference. Although Jim C volunteered to take a lie detector test, we have no information about whether Joe A did or did not.
6. Statement 6 cannot be verified or refuted from the information in the story; it would have to be categorized as an inference. The story tells us that all three knew the combination to the safe, but not whether anyone else knew it.
7. Statement 7 cannot be verified or refuted from the information in the story; it would have to be categorized as an inference. One *might* conclude that the money was stolen, but other conclusions are also possible.
8. Statement 8 cannot be verified or refuted from the information in the story; it would have to be categorized as an inference. We don't know for sure that it was a robbery.
9. Statement 9 cannot be verified or refuted from the information in the story; it would have to be categorized as an inference. . We don't know for sure that it was a robbery.
10. Statement 10 cannot be verified or refuted from the information in the story; it would have to be categorized as an inference. . We don't know for sure that it was a robbery; even if it were, we don't have enough evidence to associate either of the three employees with the money that is "unaccounted for".

Note that only one of the statements – the first one – can be verified from the information given in the story. All of the others, however plausible one might consider them to be, would have to be considered inferential, not factual.