

Understanding The Nature Of Statements: Self-Supporting
 Come Let Us Reason Together: Learning To Love God With All Thy Mind
 Student Notes
 6/8/25

Statements: True Or False

- _____ — “is a particular kind of sentence that brings a message that can be said to be either true or false.” (57)
- True Statement:
 - “The apostle Paul wrote the book of Galatians.”
- False Statement:
 - “The apostle Paul wrote the book of Isaiah.”
- “In evaluating statements, we should be looking for their _____.” (57)
- “If a sentence has no truth value, then _____ at all.” (57)

Non-Statements

- Consider the following non-statements:
 - “Who wrote the book of I Timothy?”
 - “Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church.”
 - Why are these non-statements? _____
- “The first sentence is a _____, and consequently has no truth value. It is neither true nor false, and therefore is not a statement.” (57)
- “The second sentence is a _____. It also has no truth value, and is not a statement.” (57)

Nonsense Statements

- “There is another kind of sentence that requires a little more care. It has the form of a statement, but it is not a _____. . . the instrument used to determine this is whether the sentence has a truth value.” (57)

- Example:
 - “The round square sweetly kicked the green yesterday.”
 - What is wrong with this statement? _____
- “This looks like a statement but it cannot even be said to be false. It does not refer to anything. It is best described as _____.” (57)

Nonsense Statements

- Example:
 - “This sentence is false.”
 - What is wrong with this statement? _____
- “Is this true? Then it is false, and therefore true. Is it false? It is therefore true, and consequently false.” (58)
- “Again, there is no real truth value here. This sentence cannot be identified as either true or false. It is therefore, not a statement, at least not the kind of statement that we can legitimately use in logic.” (58)
- _____— “ridiculously false statements, such as “The queen is a man” or “Dogs grow two heads when tickled” are not nonsense. They have a truth value—false—so they are statements.” (59)

Summary Statement

- “A statement is a sentence that is either _____. Other kinds of sentences that have no truth value—such as _____, _____, and _____—are not statements.” (58)
- Work on the following practice examples with a partner.
 - Jesus healed blind men. _____
 - David was the first king of Israel. _____
 - Who wrote Hebrews? _____
 - The Great Pyramid is six feet high. _____
 - The slithy toves did gyre and gimble. _____
 - Children, obey your parents. _____

Self-Supporting Statements

- “Once we have determined that a sentence is a statement, a further distinction can be made between _____ statements and _____ statements.” (61)
- “The distinction depends upon the means by which the truth value of the statement is determined. . . Self-supporting statements, which are statements that have _____ truth values.” (61)
- Example:
 - “Any surface that is red is colored.”
 - Why is this statement self-supported? _____
- Statements such as these could also be called _____.

Self-Supporting Statements

- For self-evident statements “we do not need to _____ of the statement to determine their truth values.” (61)
- There are three types of self-supporting statements.
- _____ — “a statement by a person concerning his or her own desires, beliefs, or feelings.” (61)
- Example:
 - “I believe that Jesus is the Son of God.”
- “The statement refers to the belief of the speaker; it does not primarily refer to whether Jesus is in fact the Son of God. In other words, the statement could be taken as true, even if Christianity were false.”
- Brainstorm some additional examples of “self-reported” statements.

Self-Supporting Statements

- _____ — “Statements that are true or false by logical structure. That is a statement that can be seen to be true or false by how the sentence is put together.”
- Example:
 - “Jesus is the Son of God, or He is not the Son of God.”
- “This statement is necessarily true. It cannot be false, because it covers all the possibilities. A statement which is true by logical structure is called a tautology.” (61)
- In contrast, other statements are necessarily false.
 - “Jesus is the Son of God, and He is not the Son of God.”
 - What is wrong with that statement? _____
- “This is an example of a self-contradiction, a statement that is false by logical structure.” (62)

Self-Supporting Statements

- _____ — “Some statements are necessarily true or false because of the definitions of the words in the sentence.” (62)
- Example:
 - “All triangles are three-sided figures.”
 - Why is this correct? _____
- “This is necessarily true—it is true by definition.” (62)
- The following is “false by definition.”
 - “This triangle is an octogen.”
- “According to the definitions of triangle and octagon, the statement is necessarily false.” (62)

Summary Statement

- “Self-supporting statements are statements for which _____ to determine their truth value. There are three types: self-reports (_____), statements that are true or false by logical structure, and statements that are true or false by definition.” (62)

Works Cited

Introductory Logic: The Fundamentals of Thinking Well. Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2014.