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MGF / Identifying Statements

A statement is a sentence that can be determined as true or false. It doesn't matter if you know the truth value; it's whether its truth value could be determined. A statement can never be true and false at the same time. A statement does not require an opinion to determine its truth value.

Questions, commands, and exclamations are not statements.

You will be asked to determine if sentences are considered statements.

If the truth value of the sentence could be determined (not necessarily by you), then, YES, it is a statement.

If the sentence is a question, command, exclamation, or one that requires an opinion to determine its truth value, then, NO, it is not a statement.

EXAMPLE 1

Determine if the following are statements and then explain your response.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| (a) The Tampa Bay Buccaneers is a football team in the NFL. | (e) Monkeys are reptiles. |
| (b) The Dallas Cowboys is a great football team. | (f) Wash the dishes. |
| (c) Will the Jaguars ever make it to the Superbowl? | (g) Oh no! |
| (d) Table salt consists of the compound sodium chloride. | (h) $X + 3 = 5$ |

Solution

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) Yes, it can be determined as true or false; this case, true. | (e) Yes, it can be determined as true or false; this case, false. |
| (b) No, this is an opinion. How is "great" defined? | (f) No, this is a command. |
| (c) No, a question is not a statement. | (g) No, this is an exclamation. |
| (d) Yes, it can be determined as true or false; this case, true. | (h) No, can't determine as true or false. We are not given the value of X. |

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