

## Exercises for Tutorial 35. Facts, Inferences and Judgments

### Notes

**Instructions:** Write notes to answer the following questions. *Type or write in the answer boxes.*

1. What does critical thinking involve?

2. What kinds of statement are there?

3. What are the features of objective and subjective statements?

4. What are the important characteristics of a statement of fact?

5. Are they necessarily true?

6. How do you evaluate or support a factual statement?

7. What are the important characteristics of a statement of inference?

8. How do you evaluate or support a statement of inference?

9. Can people disagree over inferences, even when they agree about the facts?

10. What are the important characteristics of a statement of judgment?

11. Are judgments subjective or objective? What does this mean?

12. How do you evaluate or support a statement of judgment?

13. If people disagree over judgments, must one of them be wrong?

14. In your own words, explain the meaning of the terms statement of judgment, statement of inference and statement of fact.

15. What is meant by the terms "objective" and "subjective?"

16. Which kinds of statement deal in objective reality, and which deal in subjective reality?

## Exercise 1

**Instructions:** For questions 1-20: decide whether each statement is a **statement of fact, inference** or **judgment**, OR a *combination* of more than one. For questions 21-30: Decide whether the statement is **objective or subjective** (namely, whether it deals in subjective or objective realities). *Click on one or more of the checkboxes below each statement to make your choice(es).*

1. Paris is the capital of France.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
2. Broccoli can help prevent certain kinds of cancer.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
3. God exists.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
4. Peanut butter is delicious.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
5. Peanut butter is delicious, but it makes you fat.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
6. Frank has an alcohol problem.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
7. Frank drank half a bottle of gin before dinner; he sure knows how to have fun.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
8. I'm selling my Volkswagen bug for \$500--that's a bargain.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
9. The car is six years old and has 35,055 miles on it.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
10. Because this car is fairly new and has low mileage, it won't break down.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
11. Shakespeare wrote the greatest poetry in the English language.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
12. There are over 6 billion people alive today.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
13. The planet is overcrowded.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
14. If the planet were not overpopulated, we would see fewer outbreaks of famine in the world.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
15. Dogs can speak French.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
16. In fact, dogs can speak excellent French.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment

17. Mary is an unusually intelligent girl.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
18. In order to be eligible for ENGL 165, CSM students must have taken ENGL 100 with a grade of C or higher.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
19. I came down with a cold in April, started taking echinacea, and by July it was gone: the echinacea must have worked!  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
20. San Francisco is a beautiful city.  
☐ Fact   ☐ Inference   ☐ Judgment
21. Los Angeles, on the other hand, is a hideous city.  
☐ Objective   ☐ Subjective
22. Los Angeles has a population of 14,859,430 and is situated over 500 miles from San Francisco.  
☐ Objective   ☐ Subjective
23. Marvin's weight gain was caused by his habit of eating a Krispy Kreme donut every morning.  
☐ Objective   ☐ Subjective
24. Marvin is getting too fat; he should go on a diet.  
☐ Objective   ☐ Subjective
25. The actress Angelina Jolie has starred in a number of very successful films.  
☐ Objective   ☐ Subjective
26. She is dating Brad Pitt, who played the central character in "Seven."  
☐ Objective   ☐ Subjective
27. The movement of the tides is caused by people coughing. When enough people cough on one coast, the water is pushed out; when they cough on the other coast, the water is pushed the other way.  
☐ Objective   ☐ Subjective
28. Moby Dick is a novel by Herman Melville.  
☐ Objective   ☐ Subjective
29. Well, it's just my opinion, but I believe that after our death, we will experience whatever we have been expecting. Those who believe in the afterlife will live forever, while those who do not will just cease to exist.  
☐ Objective   ☐ Subjective
30. Child abuse should be stopped.  
☐ Objective   ☐ Subjective