

SKILLSET FOUR: IDENTIFY THE MISTAKE

8

Zoe is going to a party this weekend and most of the children in her class will be going as well.



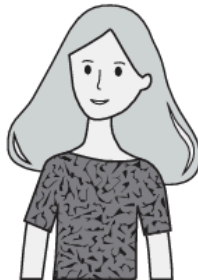
Zoe: "I will know most of the people at the party because they are in my class."

Which one of the following sentences shows that Zoe has made a mistake?

- A** Zoe might know some of the people at the party who are not in her class.
- B** Most of the people in the class are going to the party because they know each other.
- C** Zoe might spend her time at the party getting to know new people.
- D** A large number of people might have been invited to the party.

23

Horses have eyes on the sides of their heads, which means they can see almost all around them at any time. We think they evolved this way because they are prey animals (predators hunt and eat them), and a wide field of view makes it harder for predators to sneak up on them.



Lana: "Chameleons must be prey too, because they also have eyes on the sides of their head."

Which one of the following sentences shows the mistake Lana has made?

- A** There may be some prey animals that have very weak eyesight.
- B** There may also be reasons for non-prey animals to have eyes on the sides of their heads.
- C** There may be other ways horses evolved to avoid predators, like quick reaction times.
- D** There may be predators that succeed in hunting horses despite their wide field of view.

33

A constellation is a group of stars in the night sky, often in the shape of an animal, or another recognisable object. In ancient times, sailors used the positions of the constellations to navigate on the open seas.



Amir: "That must mean that the sailors had to hope they had clear skies at night, otherwise they'd be certain to get lost!"

Which one of the following sentences shows that Amir has made a mistake?

- A** Even if the skies are clear, it might not be possible to see all the constellations.
- B** It may have been more likely to have clear skies in ancient times than it is now.
- C** It may be that ancient sailors had other methods of navigation too.
- D** Ancient sailors may have had other reasons to observe the stars.

38

Trisha is trying to decode a secret message from her friend Brianna. She doesn't know the code, so she has to try to guess at what it might be.

The coded message reads: SFB HDIG KCUTDF FZXROOZ



Trisha: "I think that the first word of the message might be 'the'. But that would mean that the letter 'E' only appears once in the message, which would be unusual, because 'E' is a very common letter."

Which one of the following sentences shows that Trisha has made a mistake?

- A** The first word of the original message might not actually be 'the'.
- B** Brianna's message might only contain one letter 'E', even if that is unusual.
- C** The code might contain numbers and other symbols, not just the letters of the alphabet.
- D** Letters in the message might not always be represented by the same letters in the code.

8

Children at John's school were asked to complete a questionnaire about their sleeping habits, to find out if they were getting enough sleep. The survey found that people who read a lot at bedtime slept fewer hours (on average) per night than people who didn't.



John: "This shows that reading at night does not help you to get to sleep."

Which one of the following sentences shows the mistake that John has made?

- A It could be that people are reading more because they are having trouble sleeping.
- B It could be that people who don't read as much spend more time playing computer games.
- C It could be that some children are not allowed to stay up late reading books.
- D It could be that some books are more exciting to read than others.

23

Lauren wants to join her school's basketball team. To qualify, players must be at least 140 centimetres tall.



Miriam: "Lauren was 139 centimetres tall last year, but she has now grown to be 141 centimetres tall. So, she will definitely be chosen to be part of the team this year."

Which one of the following sentences shows the mistake Miriam has made?

- A Lauren might not actually enjoy playing basketball.
- B There might not be enough players to form a complete basketball team.
- C Height might not be the only thing used to choose players for the basketball team.
- D Other sports teams might also have a height requirement.

33

Matt and Yash play chess together every day at lunch. They are at around the same skill level, and they have each won around half of the matches they've played against each other.



Mr Stead: "I can't remember how many games Matt and Yash played last week, but I know Matt won five, so they must have played about ten games."

Which one of the following sentences shows the mistake Mr Stead has made?

- A** Either Matt or Yash might have played unusually well last week.
- B** The players have each won around half, not exactly half, of their games.
- C** Matt and Yash may have had lots of homework last week.
- D** It doesn't matter who wins, because the important thing is that they both have fun.

38

In an athletics competition there are four heats, and every participant runs in two of the heats. The finalists are all of the participants who finished in the top two in at least one of the heats.



Chloe: "Tim was faster than Leon in the first heat, so if Leon qualifies for the final, so will Tim."

Which one of the following sentences shows the mistake Chloe has made?

- A** Tim may not run as fast in his other heat.
- B** Leon may not race against Tim again in his other heat.
- C** Leon may qualify based on his performance in his other heat.
- D** Tim may have had more chance to practise for the competition than Leon.

21

To qualify for the Kings' County Volleyball Trophy finals, teams must meet at least one of three conditions:

1. coming first or second in their qualifying group
2. scoring 15 match points or more in the qualifying stages
3. winning the 'Fair Play Award' in the qualifying stages

Lucy is looking at the qualifying results, and planning the final stage of the tournament.



Lucy: "There were six groups, so twelve teams came first or second. Fourteen teams scored at least 15 match points. And of course one team won the Fair Play Award. So I should plan for 27 teams in the finals."

Which one of the following sentences shows the mistake Lucy has made?

- A** The winner of the Fair Play Award may have scored fewer than 15 match points.
- B** Some teams may have met more than one of the conditions, so there will be fewer than 27 teams.
- C** Some teams may have scored a lot more than 15 match points.
- D** Some teams may have met more than one of the conditions, so there will be more than 27 teams.

The Northern Intercity Railway employs ticket inspectors to check that everyone travelling on a train has a valid ticket, and catch anyone trying to ride for free. Anyone caught without a ticket has to pay a \$500 fine.

In the last five years, not a single person has been caught without a valid ticket.



Linda: "That just shows that the ticket inspectors are a waste of time and money – they never catch anyone. The Railway should save the money, or employ them to do something more useful."

Which one of the following sentences shows the mistake Linda has made?

- A** Fear of being caught may be the reason that nobody tries to travel without a ticket.
- B** Just because nobody has been caught in the last five years does not mean they will not be in future.
- C** The Northern Intercity Railway may not have anything more useful to spend the money on.
- D** Just because the inspectors have not caught anyone does not mean that nobody has travelled without a valid ticket.

- 9 In the Junior Golf Championship, prizes are given out to the players who finish first, second, and third, and to anyone who gets a hole-in-one.



Sam: "Well, I know that one player scored a hole-in-one this year. So that means that four players will get prizes."

Which one of the following sentences shows the mistake Sam has made?

- A Some players might deserve a prize even if they didn't score a hole-in-one.
- B The hole-in-one might have been scored by a player who finished first, second, or third.
- C Younger players might find it difficult to score a hole-in-one.
- D We do not know the total number of players in the competition.

- 15 Ferdinand has an atlas which he can use to look up any city in the world.



Ferdinand: "If you tell me the name of a city, you don't need to tell me which country it's in – I can look it up in my atlas."

Which one of the following sentences shows the mistake Ferdinand has made?

- A There are some cities which have the same name as the country they are in.
- B There are some cities which have the same name as each other.
- C There are some countries which do not have any cities at all.
- D There are some cities that have changed their name.