

Deductive Reasoning

Deductive reasoning means making an inference based on information that is well known and widely accepted. When you deduce something, you reason from one (or more) statements to arrive at a logical conclusion. In deductive reasoning, if the premises (statements you are reasoning from) are true, then the conclusion must also be true.

Deductive reasoning works from the top down: it begins with a general assumption and narrows in scope until it arrives at a specific conclusion.



DIRECTIONS: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes is famous for his deductive reasoning skills. As you read the assigned short story, track some of the deductions that Holmes makes and the premises he uses to arrive there.

Deductions	Premises