

**Getting familiar with . . . implicit claims**

**For each of the following arguments, identify the implicit claim and identify whether it is missing or disguised. Some arguments have multiple implicit claims.**

1. “God made dirt and dirt don’t hurt.”
2. “You can’t have a drink. You have to be 21 to drink.”
3. “You have to be registered to vote. And you’re not registered, are you?”
4. “Abortion kills innocent people. Therefore, abortion is wrong.” [Don’t get distracted here. Forget about whether the claim “Abortion kills innocent people” is true. It may or may not be. Your assignment is to identify the implicit premise or conclusion of the argument.]
5. “Every religion is a story about salvation. So, Buddhism is a story about salvation.”
6. “All humans have civil rights. You’re a human, aren’t you?”
7. “You shouldn’t put that child on trial. He is only four years old.”
8. “I know that cats give birth to live young because all mammals give birth to live young.”
9. “All liberals are elitist atheists. You’re not an elitist atheist, are you?”
10. “The standard price for this package is three times higher than the other brands. You don’t want to pay three times more, do you? So, you don’t want this package.”
11. “You have to score at least a 90 to pass this exam, and you only scored an 87.”
12. “There is only one requirement for this job, and you have it.” [Note that “it” is ambiguous. Make clear what is intended here. Check the book for more on the problem of ambiguity.]
13. “It’s not over until the music stops. And the band plays on.”

14. "Today will be a good day. Fridays are always good days."

15. "I'm having a beer because it's five o'clock somewhere."

16. "If the server's down, then we won't have internet for a week. It looks like the server's down, so . . ."

17. "If Creationism were true, there wouldn't be any vestigial organs. Yet, what about the tailbone and appendix?"

18. "If evolution were true, there would be a complete fossil record of all transitional forms. And I don't know of any archaeologist, paleontologist, or geologist who claims the fossil record is complete."

19. "Islam is a violent religion. We know this because most terrorists say explicitly that they are members of Islam."

20. "Removing goods from the commons stimulates increases in the stock of what can be owned and limits losses that occur in tragic commons . . . Therein lies a justification for social structures enshrining a right to remove resources from the unregulated commons: when resources become scarce, we need to remove them if we want them to be there for our children. Or for anyone else's."