

INFERENCE INDICATORS

Inference indicators are expressions which **precede** a premise or conclusion of an argument. **Inference indicators are the easiest way to identify an argument.** They are road signs that the writer uses to alert the reader about the logical relationships that are claimed to hold between statements. Some indicators are more common than others. While many premise indicators function grammatically as conjunctions and many conclusion indicators are adverbs, grammatical function is not a reliable guide to logical function. Some indicators are logically dyadic (requiring two statements), e.g., “since” and “because.” In such cases, the indicator picks out the expression that follows **immediately** after the indicator. Consider the argument, “Because Jesus was a human being, he must have had kidneys.” Here, “Jesus was a human being” is the premise of the argument while “Jesus must have had kidneys” is the conclusion.

The following list is not exhaustive. There are **many** more variations. Quickly commit the list to memory and you will have a basic mastery of the anatomy of arguments in ordinary language in both your reading and your writing.

Premise Indicators	Conclusion Indicators	Expressions that are <i>not</i> inference indicators
as	consequently	and
since	therefore	but
for	which shows that	however
because	proves that	yet
as shown by	as a result	still
follows from	hence	if ... then ... (in most uses)
as indicated by	so	besides
being that	implies that	also
being as	entails that	although
inasmuch as	accordingly	moreover
in the first place	these facts indicate that	on the contrary
given that	this supports the view that	in fact
suppose that	points to the conclusion that	clearly
seeing that	allows us to infer that	one can see that
for the reasons that	suggests very strongly that	similarly
in view of the fact that	leads me to believe that	too
on the correct supposition that	bears out the point that	also
assuming that	thus	now
may be inferred from	demonstrates that	finally
may be derived from	it follows that	first, second, etc.
may be concluded from	in this way one sees that	it is clear that
may be deduced from	clearly, then	it is obvious that
whereas	obviously, then	
	the conclusion is that	
	this is the reason that	