

Exercise 11-9

In which of the following arguments is the conclusion too guarded or unguarded, given the premises? After you have decided, compare results with three or four classmates.

- ▲ 1. We spent a day on the Farallon Islands last June, and was it ever foggy and cold! So dress warmly when you go there this June. Based on our experience, it is 100 percent certain to be foggy and cold.
2. We've visited the Farallon Islands on five different days, two during the summer and one each during fall, winter, and spring. It's been foggy and cold every time we've been there. So dress warmly when you go there. Based on our experience, there is an excellent chance it will be foggy and cold when ever you go.
3. We've visited the Farallon Islands on five different days, all in June. It's been foggy and cold every time we've been there. So dress warmly when you go there in June. Based on our experience, it could well be foggy and cold.
- ▲ 4. We've visited the Farallon Islands on five different days, all in June. It's been foggy and cold every time we've been there. So dress warmly when you go there in June. Based on our experience, there is a small chance it will be foggy and cold.
5. We've visited the Farallon Islands on five different days, all in January. It's been foggy and cold every time we've been there. So dress warmly when you go there in June. Based on our experience, it almost certainly will be foggy and cold.

Exercise 11-10

For the past four years, Clifford has gone on a hundred-mile bicycle ride on the Fourth of July. He has always become too exhausted to finish the entire hundred miles. He decides to try the ride once again, but thinks, "Well, I probably won't finish it this year, either, but no point in not trying."

- ▲ 1. Does the conclusion seem appropriate given the size and representativeness of the sample?
- ▲ 2. Suppose the past rides were done in a variety of different weather conditions. Does this information warrant a more or a less guarded conclusion than that stated above?
3. Suppose the past rides were done on a variety of different kinds of bike (e.g., ten-speed road bikes, mountain bikes, racing bikes, etc.), and Clifford hasn't yet decided what kind of bike to ride in this year's ride. Does that information warrant a more or a less guarded conclusion than the original?
4. Suppose the past rides were all done on exactly the same bike Clifford will ride this year. Does this information warrant a more or a less guarded conclusion than the original?