

## Looking Before You Leap

When we observe an incident we often jump to an incorrect conclusion. For example, a teacher spotted two boys fighting in the playground. Assuming they were settling a difference and should have been aware of the penalties the school rules state for fighting, the teacher punished them both with two sessions of detention. It was later discovered that the boys had been not fighting, but simply practising their roles in the forthcoming school play.

Before we can reach a reasonable conclusion, we must be aware of *all* the information and facts available.

For each of the following statements, first write the obvious conclusion a person may reach. On the next line write another possible explanation.

- 1 On Tuesday Maria loses the gold watch her parents had bought her. On Wednesday morning Joanne, who has never worn a watch before, is noticed wearing a new gold watch in class.

Conclusion (a) \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion (b) \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Mr Smith is sixty years of age. He has never been able to see any of his grandchildren.

Conclusion (a) \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion (b) \_\_\_\_\_

- 3 On the way home from school you notice a stationary car. A lady, who is kneeling beside a large yellow dog at the side of the road, is crying.

Conclusion (a) \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion (b) \_\_\_\_\_

- 4 Your teacher, Mr Jones, is a heavy smoker. When you arrive at school you are told that Mr Jones is absent as he has been stricken with a serious illness.

Conclusion (a) \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion (b) \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 There is a loud clap of thunder and you notice your cat run under the house.

Conclusion (a) \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion (b) \_\_\_\_\_

- 6 During the afternoon, Tran tells you he is not feeling well. Later he phones to say he will be unable to come to your birthday party that evening.

Conclusion (a) \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion (b) \_\_\_\_\_

