

Practicing Your Premises

According to the definition in **Vocabulary.com**: “A *premise* is what forms the basis of a theory. In logic, the *premise* is the basic statement upon whose truth an argument is based... In a more general sense, it's a basic assertion.”

Here are some examples:

“When you called 911 on the guy in your backyard, it was on the **premise** that he was a thief and not the meter-reader.”

“On the **premise** that people are generally good --> you keep your doors unlocked.” ¹

On the **premise** that not all people are honest --> The person counted the change he received from the store clerk.

Your turn to identify the premise.

1. On the premise that _____

_____ --> The student in Mr. Forrest's class did his reading homework, even though he didn't want to.

2. On the premise that _____

_____ --> Many young children in Japan ride the subways and walk at night without adult supervision.

Now, you design an example, and share it with your neighbor.

3. On the premise that _____ -->

¹ "premise - Dictionary Definition : Vocabulary.com." 2012. 19 Mar. 2015
<<http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/premise>>

Historical Premises

Here are a few examples from history. See if you can figure out the missing premise from the argument below:

4. On the premise that _____

_____ --> Neville Chamberlain signed the Munich Pact with Hitler.

5. On the premise that _____

_____ --> Winston Churchill opposed Britain entering into the Munich Pact with Hitler.

6. On the premise that _____

_____ --> Harry Truman dropped the atomic bomb on Japanese cities rather than invading Japan with US forces during World War II.

7. On the premise that _____

_____ --> Some scientists working on the atomic bomb asked the President to explode the first atomic bomb on an uninhabited island with the Japanese observers watching the explosion.

Now, you design a historical example, and share it with your neighbor.

8. On the premise that _____

_____ --> _____