Name: Date:

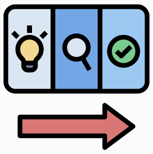
Section: Score:

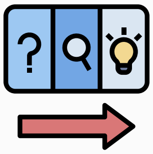
Understanding Deductive and Inductive Reasoning

Deductive reasoning follows a logical path from general principles to specific conclusions.
Inductive reasoning, on the other hand, moves from specific observations to broader generalizations.

An easy way to remember this:

- **Deductive reasoning** → General to specific
- **Inductive reasoning** → Specific to general





Examples:

Imagine someone says:

"Driving on icy streets is dangerous. The streets are icy now, so it would be dangerous to drive."

This is **deductive reasoning**.

The argument starts with a broad principle—driving on icy roads is dangerous—and applies it to a specific situation, concluding that it is currently dangerous to drive. The reasoning moves from general to specific.

Now, consider this statement:

"My brother drove last week when it was icy and got into an accident. So did my friend Charley. That must mean driving on icy streets is dangerous."

This is **inductive reasoning**.

The person begins with specific observations—two people had accidents on icy roads—and then forms a broader conclusion that driving on icy roads is dangerous. The reasoning moves from specific to general.

Practice Exercise:

Now, let's put this into action! You'll be given 10 arguments. Your task is to determine whether each one follows **inductive** or **deductive reasoning.**