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**EXERCISE: Good reasons: relevance**

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Sometimes people offer reasons that don't have anything to do with what they're talking about.

For example, suppose someone says, "I like apples because parrots drink soup." It may be true that parrots drink soup, but it has nothing to do with a person's liking apples. So it isn't a reason.

Can you say if the following people are giving reasons for what they say:

1. Nancy said, "I like school because I like the people I meet there."
2. Albert said, "I like school because there's always something to do there."
3. Daisy said, "I like school because rice in China is very expensive."
4. Hank said, "I like school because I don't like to take baths."
5. Martin said, "I like school because I like whatever makes me think."

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**EXERCISE: Good reasons: strength**

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When you state an opinion, you may want to back it up with a reason or even with a number of reasons. This reason (or several reasons together) should be connected with your opinion. If you want other people to agree with you, your reason should be stronger than the opinion it supports.

For example, suppose you say, "I liked the movie I saw last night because it had good acting, lots of excitement and wasn't scary." You have given three reasons for liking the movie. All three are relevant and together they are strong.

Can you say if the following people are giving strong reasons for what they say?

1. Herbert said, "I liked the movie because the popcorn was good."
2. Janet said, "I liked the movie because it was in color."
3. Lucy said, "I liked the movie because it had a happy ending."
4. Jamie said, "I liked the movie because it was never boring and the actors seemed real and the photography was interesting."
5. Martha said, "I liked the movie because I got in for free."

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**EXERCISE: Good reasons**

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A. What reasons might Paul have for saying these things. (List the children's responses for each one on the board.)

1. "I like swimming."
2. "I go to school a lot."
3. "I think that Paula and Mark are brother and sister."
4. "I bet our family goes on a summer holiday this year."
5. "The car is in the garage."

B. Select any one of the above and ask the class:

1. Were any of these reasons better than any of the others?
2. If so, which ones? What do you think makes that a better reason than any of the others?

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**EXERCISE: Good reasons**

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Do you think what these children said makes any sense?

1. Jane says, "I'm not going swimming because I'm a good swimmer."
2. Jane is a new girl at the school. No one else in her class can swim, but she can.  
Jane says, "I'm not going swimming because I'm a good swimmer."
3. Peter says, "I like strawberries because they make me sick."
4. Harold says, "I know it'll rain tomorrow because it's raining today."
5. Amanda says, "I know it's Tuesday tomorrow because it's Monday today."

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**EXERCISE: Good reasons and good sense**

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Do you think what these children have said makes *good sense*, *no sense*, or just *some sense*?

1. Annie says, "Mom bought me a new dress because my old one wore out."
2. Diane says, "Mom bought me a new dress so I'll look pretty."
3. Susan's teacher told her, "You can go into first grade only if you get an "A" on your spelling test." Susan got a "B" on her spelling test. Susan said, "I'm still going into the first grade." Does what Susan said make sense?
4. Susan's teacher told her, "If you get an "A" on your spelling test, then you go into the first grade." Susan got a "B" on her spelling test. Susan said, "I'm still going into first grade." Does what Susan said make sense?
5. Paul says, "I like to spin around in circles and get dizzy because my older brother said it was good for me."

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**EXERCISE: Good reasons and making sense**

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A good reason helps us make sense of what has been said. Jenny says many things and she makes us wonder about her reasons for saying these things.

For example, Jenny says, "The cat must be sick because he's running around all over the place." What Jenny has said would make sense if the cat never ran around, or if the cat was running around wildly for a very long time non-stop, or if the cat was running around and knocking itself against things.

Now see if you can figure out how the things Jenny has said would make sense.

1. Jenny says, "Alex walks to school backwards. He isn't weird." How could that make sense?
2. Jenny says, "I'm not going to do my spelling test because I'll get them all right." How could that make sense?
3. Jenny says, "It's not raining so I'll take my raincoat." How could that make sense?
4. Jenny says, "I'm very hungry, so I'll have a drink of water." How could that make sense?
5. Jenny says, "The sky is not blue today." How could that make sense?