
EXERCISE: Questions

What (if anything) is wrong with the following questions, and how could the ones that aren't good be stated better?

1. Dolores: "Say, Minnie, is your toothache giving you pain?"
2. Zelda: "Why are some words spelled with letters that aren't pronounced?"
3. George Washington: "Gee, what will Abe Lincoln do next?"
4. Mort: "What were the first whales like?"
5. Brigid: "You're not yourself today, are you, Elsie?"
6. Miriam: "Can anyone tell me what happens when an irresistable force meets an immovable object?"
7. Duke: "How would *you* like if it *you* got only dog food to eat?"
8. Cecil: "Hey, Dad, when you sit down, where does your lap come from?"
9. Jon: "Fred, are you really the guy I think you are?"
10. Dulcie: "Why can't there be peace in the world?"

DISCUSSION PLAN:

1. Does every question have an answer?
2. Is every answer the answer to some question?
3. Can there be more than one answer to the same question?
4. Can there be more than one correct answer to the same question?
5. Can a statement be a correct answer to a question, and still not be *true*?
6. Can a statement be a correct answer to a question, and still be silly or nonsensical? (How about riddles?)
7. Can an answer be *true*, but *incorrect*?
(How about this: Mother: "Suzy, please! Do you want to go in or out?"
Suzy: "Yes.")
8. Are answers more important than questions?
9. Can a question be asked in such a way as to suggest an answer?
10. Could there ever be more answers than questions?
11. Could there ever be more questions than answers?

EXERCISE:

What, if anything, is wrong with the following answers?

1. Gary: "Is this winter ever going to end?"
Bertha: "Not until spring."
2. Marie: "Aren't all boys alike?"
Pippy: "Well, only insofar as they resemble each other."
3. Toodles: "Do I have to have money in order to buy a movie ticket?"
Andy: "Do you need legs in order to walk?"
4. Pamela: "If no one is in a forest and a tree falls, does it make a sound?"
Mac: "Sure—it makes a crash no one hears."
5. Dawn: "Isn't it possible that at this very moment I'm dreaming?"
Dusty: "Possible! It's a fact!"
6. Marva: "Ah, what is life?"
Loretta: "Aw, who cares?"
7. Billy Joe: "Can you tell my fortune?"
Amanda Sue: "Hold out your hand."
8. Midge: "If I ask a stupid question, does it deserve an answer?"
Halley: "Don't be stupid."
9. Dodie: "Will I always be rewarded for being good?"
Bruce: "Of course—but remember, I always lie."
10. Mitch: "Hey, Jennie, how about a game of cards?"
Jeannie: "I'm sorry, Mitch, but I don't play with total strangers."