

Generalizations with General Jacobs



Signal Words to Valid Generalizations

some	sometimes	many
most	often	rarely
might	probably	few
	typically	

Signal Words to Faulty Generalizations

everyone	all	always
nobody	none	never

Part 1. Directions: Read each sentence. Is it a generalization? Write YES or NO on the line following the statement. Underline signal words that are used.

1. Most kids prefer fruits to vegetables. _____
2. Like humans, whales are mammals. _____
3. My sister and I are taller than the other girls in our classes. _____
4. Some people are afraid of clowns. _____
5. The students at our school are typically polite and respectful. _____

Part 2. Directions: Read each sentence(s). Is the generalization valid or faulty? Write VALID or FAULTY on the line following the statement. Underline signal words that are used.

6. Many boys play soccer during recess. _____
7. All boys love to play soccer. _____

8. Kids rarely wear formal dresses and suits to school. _____
9. Everybody looks forward to summer vacation when they don't have to go to school. _____
10. Mrs. Benton is never in a bad mood. She is always cheerful. _____

Part 3. Directions: Write your own generalizations.

11. Write a faulty generalization about what kids like to eat.

12. Write a valid generalization about what kids like to eat.

13. Write a faulty generalization about dogs.

14. Write a valid generalization about dogs.

Generalizations

with General Jacobs



Signal Words to Valid Generalizations

some	sometimes	many
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might	probably	few
	typically	

Signal Words to Faulty Generalizations

everyone	all	always
nobody	none	never

Part 1. Directions: Read each sentence. Is it a generalization? Write YES or NO on the line following the statement. Underline signal words that are used.

1. Most kids prefer fruits to vegetables. YES
2. Like humans, whales are mammals. NO
3. My sister and I are taller than the other girls in our classes. NO
4. Some people are afraid of clowns. YES
5. The students at our school are typically polite and respectful. YES

Part 2. Directions: Read each sentence(s). Is the generalization valid or faulty? Write VALID or FAULTY on the line following the statement. Underline signal words that are used.

6. Many boys play soccer during recess. VALID
7. All boys love to play soccer. FAULTY

ANSWER KEY

8. Kids rarely wear formal dresses and suits to school. VALID

9. Everybody looks forward to summer vacation when they don't have to go to school. FAULTY

10. Mrs. Benton is never in a bad mood. She is always cheerful. FAULTY

Part 3. Directions: Write your own generalizations.

11. Write a faulty generalization about what kids like to eat.

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13. Write a faulty generalization about dogs.

14. Write a valid generalization about dogs.

Part 3:
Answers will vary.



General Jacobs would like to teach us



GENERALIZATIONS!



A **generalization** is a broad statement based on information, observations, or experiences. It is **logical**, but **unproven**.

SIGNAL WORDS

often some many most few sometimes
rarely probably typically might

Many veterans are brave.

Veterans typically enjoy receiving letters from students.

Most veterans are glad that they have served their country.

BEWARE! These words can lead to **faulty generalizations!**

everyone all none always never

Veterans are always brave.

All veterans are role models for kids

Avoid these!
Remember... just **ONE** exception can prove your generalization **FALSE!**

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