

Deductive Reasoning: The Practice Set

Ten self-contained drills. Paper, a pencil, and a timer are enough. Answers are included where a drill has one; the rest are checked by the evidence in front of you.

1. **Four inferences.** Rule: if it rained overnight, the pavement is wet. Write the four possible inferences, marking each valid or invalid. Valid: rain means wet; dry means no rain. The other two are the classic fallacies.
2. **The Wason task.** Four cards show E, K, 4, 7. Rule: a vowel on one side means an even number on the other. Which cards do you turn to test it? Answer: E and 7.
3. **One clean grid.** Solve one logic-grid puzzle on paper. Mark an X for every exclusion and a dot for every confirmation, re-reading all clues after each new mark. Never mark on a hunch.
4. **Observation chains.** Study a photograph of a lived-in room for three minutes. Write five lines: I observe X, therefore Y, because Z. Strike any line whose Z is not visible.
5. **The tray.** Place twelve small objects on a tray. Study them for one minute, cover them, then list every object with one detail each.
6. **Contrapositives.** Collect five if-then rules from signs or manuals today. Write the contrapositive of each, and check you have not written the converse instead.
7. **The disproof.** Write one thing you believe about a person or place. Name the single observation that would disprove it. Go and look.
8. **Three occupations.** Pick a room you can see. Propose three occupations for its main user, then find visible evidence that eliminates two.
9. **The absences.** List three objects missing from your kitchen that a stranger would expect. Write what each absence says about how you live.
10. **The two-sentence case.** Study a photograph of a stranger's space. Write a two-sentence conclusion, each sentence backed by named, visible evidence. Have someone check you.

A routine that holds: ten minutes a day. Two for a warm-up (drill 1 or 6), seven for one substantial exercise rotated daily, one to check answers and note what you missed. The review minute is where the skill forms.