

Baronett's *Logic* (4th ed.)  
Section Tips

Chapter 11: Six Tips

11B Conditional Statements

- Identifying the ways a conditional statement is expressed will help you understand legal reasoning. “If–then,” “if,” “only if,” “whatever,” “whenever,” “every time,” “given that,” “all cases where,” and “in the event that” are examples of how a conditional statement can be expressed.

11C Sufficient and Necessary Conditions

- Understanding how the parts of a conditional statement work is important to understanding the function of conditional statements in legal reasoning. The antecedent of a conditional statement asserts a sufficient condition, while the consequent asserts a necessary condition.
- Recall from Chapter 1 that a sufficient condition is one that guarantees that something will happen. In a conditional statement, a sufficient condition is such that a true antecedent guarantees a true consequent. When a law asserts, “If X, then Y,” whatever X is, it is claimed to be a sufficient condition for Y.
- Recall from Chapter 1 that a necessary condition is one that must obtain for something else to occur. Absent that condition, the something else will not occur. For example, being a citizen of the United States is a necessary condition for voting in an election.

11E Analyzing a Complex Rule

- Enlist your knowledge of analyzing truth functional ordinary language statements. You should let capital letters stand for simple statements and group compound elements together by way of parentheses. Identify significant compound statement types: negation, conditional statement, disjunction, and conjunction. Looking at the form of legal reasoning will aid you in working past the often dense sentence constructions.

11F Analogies

- You already know from Chapter 10 that analogical reasoning is a powerful tool for making progress in understanding complicated arguments. Legal reasoning uses analogies by way of comparisons between an existing case and a rule of law. As with analyses of other analogical arguments, look for the relevant similarities and dissimilarities between the case at hand and the law.