Answers to Practice Problems 3.1

Examine the following arguments. Then determine whether they are deductive arguments or not.

1. Charles is hard to work with, since he always interrupts others. Therefore, I do not want to work with Charles in the development committee. **(not deductive)**

2. No physical object can travel faster than light. An electron is a physical object. So an electron cannot travel faster than light. **(deductive)**

3. The study of philosophy makes your soul more slender, healthy, and beautiful. You should study philosophy. **(not deductive)**

4. We should go to the beach today. It's sunny. The dolphins are out, and I have a bottle of fine wine. **(not deductive)**

5. Triangle A is congruent to triangle B. Triangle A is an equilateral triangle. Therefore, triangle B is an equilateral triangle. **(deductive)**

6. The farmers in Poland have produced more than 500 bushels of wheat a year on average for the past 10 years. This year they will produce more than 500 bushels of wheat. **(not deductive)**

7. No dogs are fish. Some guppies are fish. Therefore, some guppies are not dogs. **(deductive)**

8. Paying people to mow your lawn is not a good policy. When people mow their own lawns, they create self-discipline. In addition, they are able to save a lot of money over time. **(not deductive)**

9. If Mount Roosevelt was completed in 1940, then it's only 73 years old. Mount Roosevelt is not 73 years old. Therefore, Mount Roosevelt was not completed in 1940. **(deductive)**

10. You're either with me, or you're against me. You're not with me. Therefore, you're against me. **(deductive)**

11. The worldwide use of oil is projected to increase by 33% over the next 5 years. However, reserves of oil are dwindling at a rapid rate. That means that the price of oil will drastically increase over the next 5 years. **(not deductive)**

12. A nation is only as great as its people. The people are reliant on their leaders. Leaders create the laws in which all people can flourish. If those laws are not created well, the people will suffer. This is why the people of the United States are currently suffering. **(not deductive)**

13. If we save up money for a house, then we will have a place to stay with our children. However, we haven't saved up any money for a house. Therefore, we won't have a place to stay with our children. **(deductive)**

14. We have to focus all of our efforts on marketing because right now; we don't have any idea of who our customers are. **(not deductive)**

15. Walking is great exercise. When people exercise they are happier and they feel better about themselves. I'm going to start walking 4 miles every day. **(not deductive)**

16. Because all libertarians believe in more individual freedom, all people who believe in individual freedom are libertarians. **(deductive)**

17. Our dogs are extremely sick. I have to work every day this week, and our house is a mess. There's no way I'm having my family over for Festivus. **(not deductive)**

18. Pigs are smarter than dogs. Animals that are easier to train are smarter than other animals. Pigs are easier to train than dogs. **(deductive)**

19. Seventy percent of the students at this university come from upper class families. The school budget has taken a hit since the economic downturn. We need funding for the three new buildings on campus. I think it's time for us to start a phone campaign to raise funds so that we don't plunge into bankruptcy. **(not deductive)**

20. If she wanted me to buy her a drink, she would've looked over at me. But she never looked over at me. So that means that she doesn't want me to buy her a drink. **(deductive)**