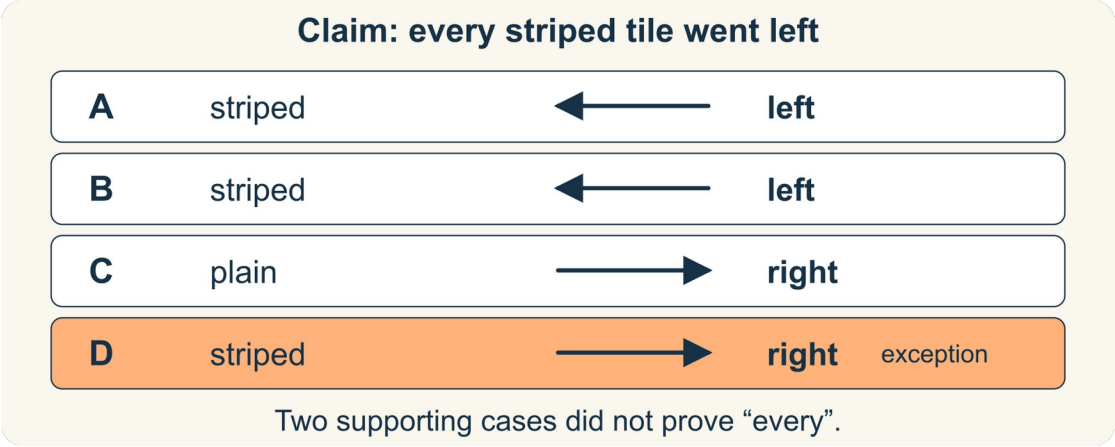
A claim a reason and a question

What would make an invented explanation stronger or weaker?

Use four invented machine records to separate a claim, its supporting reason and the question that could change it.

Investigate | 15–25 minutes, or one comparison | Paper and a pen or pencil, The supplied model; no purchase, account or internet connection needed

Start here Copy this fictional record: striped tile A went left; striped tile B went left; plain tile C went right. The machine is only a drawing.



Four records, one over-wide claim

1 Name the claim

Write: “Every striped tile goes left.” Underline “every”. This claims more than the three listed records: it covers striped tiles not yet shown.

2 Give the reason accurately

A and B support the claim because both are striped and went left. C says something about a plain tile, so it does not settle what every striped tile does.

3 Use a new supplied record

Now add invented tile D: striped, went right. Check whether it belongs to the claim’s category and whether its result conflicts. D does both, so the “every” claim fails for this record set.

4 Revise and ask

A defensible replacement is: “A and B went left; D did not.” Ask what feature or rule might explain the different result. Do not invent an unseen mechanism as an established fact.

A reason can support a claim without proving it

A, B, C and D are constructed examples, not observations from a real machine.

• Before D: A and B are positive cases, but checking two striped tiles does not establish an unrestricted “every” claim.

• After D: a striped tile went right. One genuine conflicting case defeats the claim as stated.

• Revised report: 2 of the 3 supplied striped tiles went left. That is a description of these records, not a prediction for all possible tiles.

What this example can show Changing a claim to fit records is different from discovering why the records occurred. The hidden rule remains unspecified.

A different way

Compare A and D only, or use two columns headed “claim” and “record”. Someone may read or scribe; no personal belief needs discussing.

If you want to go further

Construct a different rule that fits all four records. Explain why fitting them still does not prove it is the machine’s actual rule.

Something to notice

Did I change my confidence because of evidence, or quietly change what my claim meant?

Read or explore more

Horizon topic Knowledge Evidence

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/knowledge-evidence/

Horizon topic Arguments Logic

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/arguments-logic/

Horizon topic Philosophy

https://launchhorizonhq.com/learn/philosophy/

The Philosophy Foundation Knowledge

https://www.philosophy-foundation.org/enquiries/view/knowledge

Lancaster University 3.5 Counterexamples - MATH111: Numbers and Relations

https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/~prendivs/accessible/math111/doth3.S5.html