



Identifying Parallel Reasoning

1.

You want to buy a house in your local area with three bedrooms and a garage. However, you only want to spend €150,000. Houses in your local area with three bedrooms and a garage never sell for less than €200,000. You will have to spend more to get the house you want.

Which one of the following most closely matches the logical structure of the above argument?

- A You want a well-paid job with lots of holiday and the chance to retire early. Such jobs do not exist, so you need to adjust your expectations.
- B You want to study mathematics but you don't like numerical reasoning. Mathematics is essentially numerical reasoning, so you should choose a different subject.
- C You want a large powerful car that is fuel efficient. Large powerful cars are never fuel efficient, so you will have to spend more on fuel if you want a large powerful car.
- D You want to buy the painting at the auction. Lots of other people want to buy it, so you have to be prepared to bid a lot of money to be successful.
- E You want either the green jacket or the blue jacket. The green jacket looks good and the blue jacket is a bargain, so there are advantages in buying either one.

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Here, the answer is C.

The paragraph explains that the only way to own a house with three bedrooms and a garage is to spend more money than you are willing to pay for it. Therefore, there are two variables that need to be considered. You cannot have one without compromising the other. Variable one is the house with three bedrooms and the garage. The second variable is the cap of money that you are willing to spend, which is 150,000 euros. Therefore, you cannot get variable one if you spend 150,000 euros.

The same parallel reasoning is present in statement C. The first variable is a powerful car and the second variable is fuel efficiency. You cannot have both variables together, as a powerful car is never full efficient.