

# Self-Guided Logic Activities #6

## Mysteries and Advertisements

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**ELE90/103606**

ISBN: 978-0-7877-2027-8

Release Date 2015

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P. O. Box 802

Dayton, OH 45401-0802

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The pages in this packet were originally published in  
Self-Guided Lessons for Thinking and Doing, (ELE90/1036).

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## Unit 17

**Parkside**

Often we observe from a distance events that are easy to interpret. Someone's hat flies off in the wind, and that individual chases it. A line forms in front of a theater, and someone gets out of the line with a disgruntled look on her face. A small child falls from a tricycle and runs, crying, to a house. On the other hand, many events that take place before our eyes are little mysteries, and often we never find out what was really happening.

Let's suppose that you are in a third-story apartment in a building overlooking a city park on a very warm day in August. You are close enough to see what is going on in the park, but you can't hear what people are saying. When you look out, you notice a young, well-dressed woman kneeling down and petting a shorthaired, medium-sized dog. What do you think is happening?

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Then a uniformed police officer comes up to the woman and the dog. Apparently, he says something to her. The woman stands up and replies to the police officer. What are they saying?

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In a moment or two, a man approaches the woman, dog, and police officer. He is dripping water and appears to be drenched, but he is fully clothed. What is going on? How do you interpret these events?

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We observe many happenings that at first don't have explanations. Actually, life is full of mysteries. When they are more complex and written down, they are fascinating and we call them mystery stories. Why don't you write a mystery story?

Professional mystery writers advise those who could write a mystery to decide first what the solution to the mystery is and then figure out the circumstances. The plot will come to you after you have established those essentials. For the purpose of this assignment, your mystery doesn't have to be a detective story. You can write about something missing or something puzzling. If you can bring an element of surprise into your solution, you will have a more entertaining story.

