Flow Chart for Missing Premises: Rules

Find the conclusion and determine which is the major and which is the minor term.

Is the major/minor term which is also found in the premise distributed only once?

Yes. INVALID (Rule 3 or 4): No premise will yield a valid syllogism.

No.

Is the conclusion universal and the premise particular?

Yes. INVALID (Rule 6): No premise will yield a valid syllogism.

No.

Is the conclusion affirmative and the premise negative?

Yes. INVALID (Rule 5): No premise will yield a valid syllogism.

No.

Are both the premise and the conclusion universal?

Yes. The missing premise is universal.

No.
Appendix 17.1: Flowcharts for Missing Premises: Rules

Is the premise universal and the conclusion particular?

Yes. The missing premise is particular.

No.

Are both the premise and the conclusion particular?

Yes. The missing premise is universal.

No.

Is the major/minor term (in the missing premise) distributed in the conclusion?

Yes. The major/minor term must be distributed in the premise.

No.

The major/minor term must be *undistributed* in the premise.

Is the middle term distributed in the premise?

Yes. The middle term must be *undistributed* in the missing premise.

No.
The middle term must be distributed in the missing premise.

Are both the premise and the conclusion affirmative?

Yes. The missing premise must be affirmative.

No.

Is the premise affirmative and the conclusion negative?

Yes. The missing premise must be negative.

No.

Is the premise negative and the conclusion negative?

Yes. The missing premise must be affirmative.

No.

Is each term in the syllogism used in the same sense throughout?

No. INVALID (Rule 1).

Yes.

Is the missing premise true?

Yes. The syllogism is sound.
Appendix 17.1: Flowcharts for Missing Premises: Rules

No.

The syllogism is valid but *unsound.*