

Must Know Fallacy List

Fallacy	Definition	Example
Ad hominem	Attacking the person's character rather than the argument	"You're not even a filmmaker, how could you tell me that the movie is good?"
Straw Man	Distorting or changing the argument to make it easier to attack	A: "I prefer italian food over korean food" B: "That means you hate koreans"
Circular Reasoning	The premise is the same as the conclusion	"This book is the best because it is the best book"
False Dilemma	When the options are extremely exaggerated without other choices	"If you don't study you'll be homeless"
False Analogy	When someone uses an analogy incorrectly and does not apply to the situation	"Your plan is like trying to put a square peg in a round hole"
False Correlation	When a person relates two things without strong evidence of the correlation	"Eggs float in saltwater, therefore I should fill my pool with saltwater if i want to float"
False Cause	When the cause is not related to the effect	"I drank milk and got a nosebleed, the milk was 100% expired"
Appeal to authority	A person with high status and authority is always assumed to be correct	"Obama said orange juice is the best, so i must buy orange juice tomorrow"
Red Herring	Distract someone from the main argument with an irrelevant topic	A: "What mark did you get for your OC test?" B: "It was very hard, all my friends also said it was very hard"
Anecdotal Evidence	Using personal experience or stories to dictate decisions	"When I was 5yrs old I was bitten by an ant, all ants are evil"
Bandwagon	Believing or following what the majority does or says	"Everybody in my school has a phone so I will get one too"
Sweeping Statement	When we use one general case to generalise everything else	"I met one European person and he was rude, all Europeans are rude."
Sunken Cost	When an individual has invested too much time money or effort into something and cannot let go	"I put so much money into this scooter, that i will still ride it even though one tire is broken"

Hasty Generalisation	Conclude something without sufficient evidence. Hence why it is called a generalisation	"All basketball players are 6 feet tall. John is 6 foot 1 so he must be a basketball player"
Slippery Slope	Assuming that small events will lead to a chain of events and usually a bad major event	"My ice cream melted, it will drip, someone will slip on it, they will bleed and die"
Misinterpreted Word	People arguing misinterpret each others arguments	"He called me a big mouth even though my mouth isn't that big"
Appeal to emotion	Making someone do something out of emotion and sympathy/pity	"Chocolate ice cream is so delicious, it's better than cake can you please please buy me one"
Cherry Picking	Pick and choose things that are favourable to you and make your argument sound better	"2 out of 30 people in my class voted for me to be school captain, therefore I should be school captain"
Absence of Proof	When the opposition's argument has no proof, so you assume your argument is immediately correct	"You couldn't prove to me that teleportation doesn't work, so it should work"
Contradictory Premises	When the argument contains contradicting premises	"This car is so fast it can't speed up"
'Fallacy' Fallacy	A fallacy doesn't necessary determine the truth of someone's argument	A person who actually broke their leg says - "Please help me I am in so much pain please please" "You are just using appeal to emotion to try get me to help you"
Personal Incredulity	Disbelief in an argument is based solely on one's lack of understanding rather than evidence	"How can that cake be sweet?" In fact they haven't even tasted it
Appeal to tradition	Failing to recognize that change could be beneficial and refusing to change from tradition	"We've always used this method, let's not risk changing methods now"
False Trend Extrapolation	Following a trend and assuming that you can predict the next future outcome based off this trend	"Every 4 years, there is a world cup, therefore there is 10000% chance that in the next 4 years there will be a world cup"
False Standard	When one thinks their ability is the standard	"I couldn't solve this maths question, therefore no one else can"

No Fallacy	When there isn't a direct fallacy, instead a simple logical flaw in the reasoning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conclusive Bias ● Anchoring Bias ● Assumptions & Presumptions 	
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Week 7:

Strengthening and Weakening Arguments:

Steps to solve these questions:

1. Identify the argument before you look at the answer

Some strategies to help with step 1:

- Search for 'thus' or 'therefore' or 'consequently' or 'hence' and similar words will help you identify the main argument of the passage
- The last sentence is your best friend

General tips and tricks:

- Look out for changes in the text where they say however
- If a question says two sides of the argument with however, always strengthen/weaken the second argument mentioned
 - E.g. Chocolate is good for you, however some people say it can be bad for you
- Make sure you be as specific to the question as possible
 - Strategy we can do to help with this is to check if any words or terms in the answers match up with the question

New words:

Correlated: when two things are directly related to each other (have a relationship)

Positive correlation: when one goes up, the other goes up with it and when one goes down, the other goes down with it

E.g. temperature and ice cream sales, study time and grades

Negative correlation: when the two things move in opposite directions (when one goes up the other goes down and vice versa)

E.g. a car's age and its value,