

Common Logical Fallacies Explained

Logic · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What is the meaning of the Ad Hominem fallacy?

- A) Attacking the argument itself with evidence.
- B) Attacking the person making the argument instead of the argument.**
- C) Using emotional appeals to persuade the audience.
- D) Presenting an argument that is popular to be true.

2. Which fallacy involves using an emotional response in place of a valid argument?

- A) Slippery Slope
- B) Bandwagon Fallacy
- C) Appeal to Emotion**
- D) Red Herring

3. In the Slippery Slope fallacy, what is assumed about a series of events?

- A) That each step will inevitably lead to the next.**
- B) That the steps are unlikely to happen.
- C) That the initial event is impossible.
- D) That the final outcome is beneficial.

4. The Bandwagon Fallacy argues that something must be true because:

- A) It is supported by experts.
- B) It is logically sound.
- C) Most people think it is true.**
- D) It has historical precedent.

5. What is the primary goal of a Red Herring fallacy?

- A) To strengthen the original argument.
- B) To introduce a new, relevant point.
- C) To mislead and distract with an unrelated issue.**
- D) To provide evidence for the conclusion.

6. The Straw Man fallacy involves:

- A) Accurately representing an opponent's argument.
- B) Misrepresenting an opponent's argument to make it easier to attack.**
- C) Using evidence to support a weak argument.
- D) Acknowledging the validity of opposing viewpoints.

7. What happens in Circular Reasoning?

- A) New evidence is presented to support a claim.
- B) The argument is proven with external facts.
- C) The conclusion is used as a premise to prove itself.**
- D) An unrelated issue is introduced to distract.

8. A False Dilemma oversimplifies an argument by presenting it as having:

- A) Multiple valid options.
- B) Only one correct choice.
- C) Only two opposing choices.**
- D) A complex spectrum of possibilities.

9. Example: 'We should not listen to her opinion on public health. She failed her medical board exam twice.' This is an example of which fallacy?

- A) Appeal to Emotion
- B) Ad Hominem**
- C) Slippery Slope
- D) Bandwagon Fallacy

10. Example: 'Think about your family. Think about your children. Do you really want to vote for a candidate who will destroy everything we have built?' This is an example of which fallacy?

- A) Red Herring
- B) Straw Man
- C) Circular Reasoning
- D) Appeal to Emotion**

11. Example: 'If we allow students to redo one exam, they will expect to redo every exam, and eventually grades will mean nothing.' This is an example of which fallacy?

- A) False Dilemma
- B) Slippery Slope**
- C) Ad Hominem
- D) Bandwagon Fallacy

12. Example: 'Millions of people use this supplement daily. It must work.' This is an example of which fallacy?

- A) Appeal to Emotion
- B) Straw Man
- C) Bandwagon Fallacy**
- D) Red Herring

13. Example: 'In regard to my recent indictment for corruption, let us be clear about what is really important: unemployment. We really need to focus on creating jobs.' This is an example of which fallacy?

- A) Circular Reasoning
- B) Red Herring**
- C) Ad Hominem
- D) False Dilemma

14. Example: Person A: 'We should have stricter regulations on fast food advertising targeting children.' Person B: 'So you want to ban all food and control what people eat? That is absurd.' This is an example of which fallacy?

- A) Slippery Slope
- B) Straw Man**
- C) Appeal to Emotion
- D) Bandwagon Fallacy

15. Example: 'The Bible is true because it says so in the Bible.' This is an example of which fallacy?

- A) Red Herring
- B) Circular Reasoning**
- C) False Dilemma
- D) Ad Hominem

16. Example: 'You are either with us or against us.' This is an example of which fallacy?

- A) Straw Man
- B) Bandwagon Fallacy
- C) False Dilemma**
- D) Slippery Slope

17. Which fallacy targets the character, background, or past behavior of a person?

- A) Appeal to Emotion
- B) Ad Hominem**
- C) Slippery Slope
- D) Red Herring

18. Appeals to fear, envy, hatred, pity, and pride are types of which fallacy?

- A) Bandwagon Fallacy
- B) Straw Man
- C) Appeal to Emotion**
- D) Circular Reasoning

19. The premise of the Slippery Slope fallacy is that if event A happens, then eventually through a series of small steps, what will happen?

A) Z will happen.

B) Nothing will happen.

C) A will be proven false.

D) The argument will be strengthened.

20. What does the Bandwagon Fallacy treat as proof of truth?

A) Logical reasoning

B) Expert opinions

C) Popularity

D) Empirical evidence