

LOGIC EXERCISES

Fallacies of ordinary language are called informal fallacies. They are not really mistakes in reasoning; rather, they are attempts to win a discussion or a dispute through means other than reason. Therefore, they are a kind of irrational approach. Quite often such approaches are successful because they are psychologically persuasive. It is sometimes difficult to say exactly which fallacy is being committed because the error is not immediately evident. Try your best to match the following examples with the closest type of fallacy named in the list below.

Ad Hominem - trying to discredit the speaker and avoiding the issue

Appeal to Force - explicit or veiled threat of power or intimidation

Appeal to Pity - playing on someone's sentiments

Appeal to Authority - citing an irrelevant authority to bolster your point

False Cause or Post Hoc - two things happening in sequence or close together in time are assumed to be in a causal relationship

Begging the Question - Circular Reasoning

Hasty Generalization - jumping to a conclusion on insufficient evidence

Dicto Simpliciter - a form of hasty generalization, usually making an unqualified generalization from one exceptional event

1. The other executives find it helpful to do a few hours' work in the office on Saturday mornings. The young man who was your predecessor never did come in on Saturdays.
2. Take out a subscription to the Investigator, the nation's leading newsweekly, and be as well informed as your neighbors.
3. The wives of successful men wear expensive clothing, so the best way for a woman to help her husband become a success is to buy expensive clothing.
4. Mr. Scrooge, my husband certainly deserves a pay raise because I can hardly manage to feed the children on what you have been paying him.
5. It is too my turn to pitch today! It's my ball!
6. Which of the following would weaken Juan's argument the most?
 - A: It takes more than a good swing to be a good golfer.
 - B: Some good golfers have average swings.
 - C: Some people are born with a good golf swing.
 - D: It takes strong forearms to have a good golf swing.
 - E: Many good golfers lift weights.

