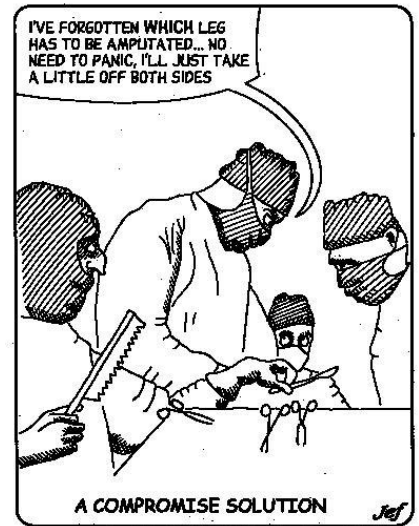


Introduction to Fallacies

Which of the following are fallacies?

1. My business has only lost money, and I've worked so hard at it. However, all this time and effort must be worth something, so I can't close down my business!
2. If one person stands up in the stadium during a baseball game, they can see the game better. Therefore, if everyone at the stadium stands up, they can all see the game better.
3. We don't know much about Miss Lee, but we think she is a university student, and she loves to listen to K-Pop and study English. This is probably true. It's even more likely that Miss Lee is a university student who loves K-Pop and studying English and is Korean.
4. Have you heard about honeybees starting to go extinct? I'm scared because Einstein said that if bees go extinct, humans will soon go extinct as well.
5. George Washington was a technophobe. He didn't even have a cellphone!
6. All of the men in Joe's family have died early from heart problems, so I assume his heart is also bad.
7. Aigo! I just lost my third poker game in a row! Well, I'm sure to win the next one then.
8. My uncle grows his own organic tobacco and makes his own chemical-free cigarettes. I think they're really not that unhealthy.
9. Dogs are mammals and have four legs. Cats are mammals and have four legs. Therefore, all mammals have four legs.
10. Half of the generals want to attack Sweden, and half of the generals don't want to attack Sweden. Thus, the President has decided to attack only half of Sweden.



Answers to “Introduction to Fallacies”

1. Sunk Cost Fallacy – Investing even more time, money, etc., into a failing project because one doesn’t want to feel all of one’s work has been a waste.
2. Fallacy of Composition – Assuming what is true of part is true of the whole.
3. Fallacy of Conjunction – Assuming an outcome that satisfies many conditions is more likely than an outcome that satisfies fewer conditions.
4. Appeal to False Authority – Using a source of dubious authority.
5. Vacuous Truth – A claim that is technically true, but meaningless due to part of the conditions not being met.
6. Fallacy of Division – Assuming that what is true of the whole is also true for a part of the whole.
7. Gambler’s Fallacy – The belief that separate, independent events can affect other individual and random events.
8. Appeal to Nature – Assuming that just because something is natural, comes from nature, or is found in nature, it must be good.
9. Hasty Generalization – Rushing to a conclusion without considering all of the variables. It’s commonly called “jumping to a conclusion.”
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10. Appeal to Compromise – The position in the center of two extreme positions is the best choice.

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