

The False Cause Fallacy (*Noob*)

Most of the notes are prepared for you, though you can still take notes for low-level vocabulary.

- Fallacy: A failure in reasoning which renders an argument invalid. - 谬论
- Obstetrician: A doctor that deals with childbirth. - 妇产科医生
- Abdominal: The belly. - 腹部
- Inflammation: A localized physical condition in which part of the body becomes **reddened, swollen, hot, and often painful**, especially as a reaction to injury or infection. - 感染
- Correlation: A relationship or connection between two or more things. - 关联
- Causation: The action of causing something. - 导致 (名词)
- Phenomena: A fact or situation that is observed to exist or happen. - 现象
- Former & Latter: Former occurs earlier, latter occurs later. - 前者和后者
- Childbed fever: A fever caused by infection after childbirth. - 产褥热 · 由产后感染导致的发热。

If you understood the fallacy, please write down your own version of examples for the 4 conditions (*You may skip*).

1. The former caused the latter:

2. Correlated by coincidence:

3. Latter caused former:

4. Common underlying cause:

And you can draw the mind map down here:

If you need help, here is the PowerPoint script provided.

1. In 1843, the childbed fever is killing women after they give birth, and nobody knows what causes it. An obstetrician named Charles Meigs has a theory. He pointed out that the patients who has abdominal inflammation will tend to develop the fever and claims that the inflammation causes the fever.

2. What do you think about it?

Meigs' argument is based on a fallacy – the false cause fallacy.

What you need to understand is: correlation does not imply causation.

3. When two phenomena regularly occur together:

- The former caused the latter.
- It is possible that they are correlated by coincidence.
- The causation might be opposite, the latter causing the former.
- Both could share a common underlying cause.

4. Now we will find some examples to prove the statement above. Try and think of something in your life.