# Logical fallacy list

This list provides an alphabetical overview of the most common types of logical fallacies.

| **Type** | **Definition** | **Example** |
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| Ad hominem fallacy | Your argument addresses the character, motives, or personal attributes of someone instead of the content of their argument. | You don’t know anything about speech disorders! You don’t have one yourself! |
| Anecdotal evidence fallacy | You use a personal experience or rare example instead of substantive evidence or sound logic. | **Person A:** Smoking is bad for your health.  **Person B:** No, it’s not! My grandpa smoked, and he died at 98! |
| Appeal to authority fallacy | You claim that your statement is true because a figure of (false or anonymous) authority made it. | **Person A:** I’m going to try a new medication for my migraines.  **Person B:** According to scientists, the best way to alleviate migraines is by using essential oils. |
| Appeal to ignorance fallacy | You claim that your statement is true because there is no evidence against it. **Or** you claim that something is false because there is no evidence in favor of it. | **Person A:** You should try this new medication.  **Person B:** Is it safe for children?  **Person A:** There’s no evidence that it isn’t, so you should try it. |
| Appeal to pity fallacy | You try to convince your audience by provoking a feeling of guilt or pity with your argument. | You should buy this bike, because I put so much work into restoring it after my father passed away. |
| Bandwagon fallacy (ad populum, appeal to popular opinion) | You claim that something is true because it’s the opinion of the majority. | Of course you should buy an iPhone. 1.5 billion people can’t be wrong! |
| Burden of proof fallacy | You are making a claim but evading the burden of proof by pretending that you’ve fulfilled it or by proposing that the other person is responsible for disproving your claim. | **Person A:** We should invest in a social media campaign!  **Person B:** Why?  **Person A:** Why not? |
| Circular reasoning fallacy | You are using a statement to prove the reasons for the statement (A is true because B is true, and B is true because A is true). | **Person A:** Jesse said Marc is very friendly, because he’s very nice.  **Person B:** Did he say what’s so nice about him?  **Person A:** He’s very friendly! |
| Correlation-causation fallacy | You assume a cause-and-effect relationship because two things are correlated (in reality, correlation does not imply causation). | The sun is shining, and there have been more burglaries than usual. It’s clear that the sun causes people to steal. |
| Equivocation fallacy | You use a word or phrase in your argument that can mean two things or causes ambiguity in a different way. | Fries are unhealthy. Apple fries are fries, so they must be unhealthy. |
| False dilemma fallacy (false dichotomy fallacy) | You suggest there are only two sides to a debate or dilemma when there are many more. | If I don’t buy the expensive new headphones, I’ll have to use the old, broken ones. |
| Hasty generalization fallacy (overgeneralization fallacy) | You make a claim based on very little evidence or on evidence that’s not representative. | Two people I know experienced headaches after getting vaccinated, so vaccines cause headaches. |
| Loaded question fallacy | You ask a question that contains a controversial or subjective assumption that makes the other person feel guilty or attacked, making it difficult for them to answer honestly. | So you’re going to marry that cheating boyfriend? |
| Middle ground fallacy (argument to moderation) | You suggest that the truth is always a compromise between two opposing or extreme opinions or positions. | **Person A:** Nobody should drive while under the influence of alcohol.  **Person B:** Actually, drunk driving is totally fine.  **Person C:** I guess that some people should drive drunk, and others shouldn’t. |
| No true Scotsman fallacy | You make a generalization about a group, but when confronted with contradictory evidence, you suggest that that case is not representative of the group you were generalizing about. | **Person A:** All redheaded people have higher pain tolerance.  **Person B:** Mary is a redhead, and she has very low pain tolerance.  **Person A:** That doesn’t count! She’s strawberry blonde and not a true redhead. |
| Post hoc (ergo propter hoc) fallacy | You claim that one event is the result of another event, simply because they one happened after the other. | You sneezed, and then Susy got sick. You infected her! |
| [Red herring fallacy](https://www.scribbr.com/fallacies/red-herring-fallacy/) | You try to redirect a conversation away from its original topic by introducing an irrelevant piece of information to distract the reader or listener. | **Police officer:** I’ve pulled you over for speeding.  **Offender:** You shouldn’t be wasting your time on me; there are murderers out there! |
| [Slippery slope fallacy](https://www.scribbr.com/fallacies/slippery-slope-fallacy/) | You claim that an initial event or action will trigger a series of other events and lead to an extreme, undesirable outcome. | **Person A:** We should lower the legal drinking age.  **Person B:** No! If we do that, we’ll have 10-year-olds getting drunk in bars! |
| [Straw man fallacy](https://www.scribbr.com/fallacies/straw-man-fallacy/) | You distort someone else’s argument to make it easier to attack or refute, because you’re not addressing their actual argument. | **Person A:** We should increase benefits for unemployed single mothers during the first year after childbirth.  **Person B:** So you believe we should incentivize women to become single mothers and live off the tax money of hardworking citizens? |
| [Sunk cost fallacy](https://www.scribbr.com/fallacies/sunk-cost-fallacy/) | You make an irrational, suboptimal decision to continue with an action or project because of past investments. | This movie is so boring, but we might as well keep watching. We’re already 30 minutes in! |
| Tu quoque fallacy (appeal to hypocrisy) | You attempt to discredit someone else’s argument by stating that their actions or behavior are not in line with their argument (so they’re a hypocrite). They may well be a hypocrite, but it doesn’t make their argument incorrect. | **Person A:** Killing animals is wrong.  **Person B:** You ate meat 10 years ago; you’ve done the same thing! |