

Logical Fallacies Practice Quiz

1. All of those movie stars are really rude. I asked Ryan Gosling for his autograph in a restaurant once, and he told me to get lost.
2. What's the big deal about the early pioneers killing a few Indians in order to settle the West? After all, you can't make an omelette without breaking a few eggs.
3. Either you buy a large car and watch it guzzle away your paycheck, or you buy a small car and take a greater risk of being injured or killed in the event of an accident.
4. There is no reason to listen to the arguments of those who oppose school prayer, for they are the arguments of atheists!
5. If the Supreme Court allows abortion, next thing you know they'll allow euthanasia, and it won't be long before society disposes of all those persons whom it deems undesirable.
6. I wore my lucky red shirt when I took the test, so that is probably why I did so well on the test.
7. Guns are like hammers—they're both tools with metal parts that could be used to kill someone. And yet it would be ridiculous to restrict the purchase of hammers—so restrictions on purchasing guns are equally ridiculous.
8. Grading this exam on a curve would be the most fair thing to do. After all, classes go more smoothly when the students and the professor are getting along well.
9. You should fly an American flag off your front porch. It's the patriotic thing to do.
10. I'm moving to Connecticut because it is the richest state in the nation and I'm tired of being poor.
11. If you do poorly in Ms. Lawrynovicz's class, you will start doing poorly in other classes too. The first thing you know, you'll end up on probation, and then you will get kicked out of college. Without a college degree, you won't get a good job, and you'll starve to death. So you had better do well in Ms. Lawrynovicz's class.
12. Why should you feel guilty for seeking your own happiness when that's what everyone else is doing, too?
13. A recent Time Warner commercial suggested that you should stick with cable because "DirectTV hates puppies."
14. Ingibjörg: "We should clean out the closets. They are getting a bit messy."
Böðvar: "Why, we just went through those closets last year. Do we have to clean them out every day?"
Ingibjörg: "I never said anything about cleaning them out every day. You just want to keep all your junk forever, which is just ridiculous."
15. In a recent campaign ad, Governor Pat Quinn accused his opponent, Bill Brady, of not paying his income taxes. [Quinn didn't mention that Bill Brady hadn't done anything illegal. Brady hadn't paid any income taxes in 2008 and 2009 because his business had suffered heavy losses in 2008 and 2009. The U.S. tax code allows business losses to be offset against one's income taxes.]

a. straw man b. red herring c. ad populum d. ad hominem e. false analogy ab. either/or bc. slanting cd. hasty generalization de. slippery slope ad. post hoc ergo propter hoc
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Answers:

1. CD
2. E
3. AB
4. D
5. DE
6. AD
7. E
8. B
9. C
10. AD
11. DE
12. C
13. D
14. A
15. BC