

Extra Fallacy Practice

Directions: After reading each of the following arguments, determine from the list of fallacies we covered which fallacy best fits each error.

1. Hugh Hefner, founder of *Playboy* magazine, has argued against censorship of pornography. But what does he know about censorship? He runs a nudie magazine! There's no reason, therefore, to listen to what he has to say on the topic of censorship.
2. All the cool kids are wearing *Brava* jeans. I've got to convince my parents to buy me a pair, too!
3. Professor Smith supports preserving academic tenure, even as the practice has come under increasing scrutiny. It's no wonder Smith takes this position; he wants to make sure he doesn't lose tenure.
4. My cousin thinks that the Dodgers are not the best ball team in America. But they have a terrific line-up this season, and ended last season with good stats. My cousin obviously wouldn't know a bad baseball team if one fell on him.
5. It's illegal to smoke grass. Kentucky is famous for its bluegrass. Therefore, it's illegal to smoke Kentucky bluegrass.
6. Lucy stands to gain a large inheritance when her great grandfather dies. It's no wonder, then, that she favors abolishing the so-called "death tax," a.k.a., estate tax, which taxes the estate of any wealthy person who dies.
7. Prisoners who claim that their rights are violated during incarceration need to just shut up. After all, weren't they violating people's rights when they committed their heinous crimes?
8. Parent: You shouldn't miss anymore school this year. You might have to repeat a grade if you do!
Child: Why should I listen to you? You missed a lot of school when you were my age, and you had to repeat 8th grade!
9. Pierce College is a better school than Pasadena City College. That's because Pierce's students are better than PCC's students. Pierce has better students because its faculty is better than PCC's faculty, and that's because Pierce pays its faculty better than PCC. Pierce is able to pay its faculty better because it has a larger endowment than PCC, and its endowment is larger because its alumni is more generous. Pierce's alumni are more generous because Pierce is a better school.
10. If we don't elect a Democrat to the presidency in 2008, America is going to fall into chaos and democracy as we know it will end.
11. The elementary school superintendent supports schools offering a voluntary moment of silence at the beginning of each school day. Such religious indoctrination of children by teachers is, however, wrong, and so we should object to the superintendent's support.
12. Listen, officer, you shouldn't give me a ticket for not wearing my seatbelt. We waste so much paper these days, laying waste to thousands upon thousands of acres of forest every day. The less paper we use, the more trees we save.
13. If we don't elect a Democrat to the presidency in 2008, America is going to fall into chaos and democracy as we know it will end. With the fall of our republic, it won't be long before the terrorists will take over the White House, Congress, and all the governmental seats of each of our glorious states. Then totalitarianism will reign,

- everyone will either be killed or turned into slaves. It won't be long after that that the world will end in nuclear holocaust.
14. My yoga teacher tells us that we shouldn't be materialistic at the expense of our spiritual health. But just the other day, I saw her getting into a Jaguar! And even worse, she just raised her rates for yoga classes. I guess her spirit's health requires a lot of comfort and wealth.
 15. You know, people say neo-Nazis are not nice people. I disagree. They *are* nice. Just the other day, I met a guy who, it turns out, is a member of a really prominent white supremacist movement. He was *so* nice and smart and gentle. He took me to a couple of meetings, and the folks I met were just as nice and down to earth as could be. We should really re-think our position on Neo-Nazis. They're actually terrific people.
 16. Headline: Scientists reveal that souls really do exist!
 17. Since no one has proven there is intelligent life in the universe apart from life here on Earth, it's clearly the case that Earth is the sole planet on which intelligent life exists.
 18. The Surgeon General advocates use of the so-called 'morning after pill.' She might as well run around encouraging sexual promiscuity and unprotected sexual relations.
 19. Reincarnation hasn't been proven by anyone, so we can safely conclude it's just a superstition.
 20. Wendy ended the semester with a score of 89.5, which, according to the standard 100 pt. scale, is a B+. She did a really terrific job in class, but on one exam, she was sick as a dog, and in her feverish stupor, she missed a section of the exam. So she sort of bombed the test. If I were to curve her score up to 90, thereby bringing her course grade to an A, then I might as well just curve up from an 89. Why stop there? Why not curve anyone up from an 88, or an 87? Heck, before you know it, curving up to an A from a 65 won't be unreasonable. Please, spare me! If I curve Wendy's grade, the whole point of assigning grades goes right out the window.
 21. People who live in California are political liberals. I was at Barbara Streisand's house for dinner the other night, and all everyone talked about was how they hate President Bush.
 22. An eminent pediatrician has proclaimed that abortion is immoral. Therefore, I am now opposed to the practice of abortion.
 23. He's guilty, I just know it. After all, his lawyer didn't prove he was innocent.
 24. Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.
 25. We talked to a random sample of the management in our corporation and all their subsidiaries, including the companies that supply us with products, and they say they are voting Republican. We predict a Republican landslide in the national election.
 26. If you are elected, would you try to fool some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, or go for the big one: all of the people all of the time?
 27. After many years of writing philosophy, the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche went stark raving mad. This fact shows the extremely dangerous nature of the subject of philosophy.
 28. Ms. Volmer has argued that we reduce the speed limit on our freeways to 55 mph. Using her logic, we should go a bit further and reduce it to 35. then we'll just be crawling along. Think of the massive gridlock. Bad idea. We can all see her proposal is a bad idea.

29. Why should I take your arguments for vegetarianism seriously when you would accept a transfusion of blood that has been tested using animal products, or accept medication that has been tested using animals?
30. Jacinta says I'm mean. So I guess she thinks I'm average. But that's not true!
31. She's got a good, strong heart. Therefore, she is good and strong.
32. In these uncertain economic times, it's important not to make your boss mad. After all, if you don't go along with what she wants, and she wants you to "cook the books," on the Renaldi account, you may find yourself on the unemployment line.
33. The new EcoCar Friendly model is 30% more beautiful than the previous model. Since you want a more beautiful car, you should but the EcoCar Friendly.
34. This tomato is red. So, the atoms that constitute it are red.
35. Obama says he wants to make sure the middle class doesn't disappear. Clearly, he's an advocate of Marxism, and so should not be supported.