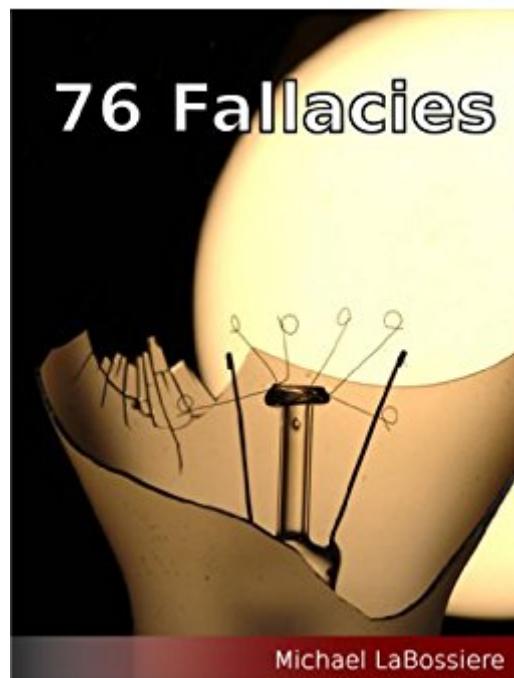


The book was found

76 Fallacies



Synopsis

A fallacy is an error in reasoning. That is, it is a piece of bad logic. Just as it is a good idea to avoid eating bad food, it is also a rather good idea to avoid bad reasoning. Unfortunately, bad reasoning is all too common— it pours out of the television and infests the web like an army of venomous spiders. Perhaps even worse than the fallacies inflicted from the outside are self-inflicted fallacies. These can lead people to make poor decisions about matters great and small. Fortunately, there is a defense against bad reasoning, namely knowledge. This concise book provides the reader with definitions and examples of seventy-six common fallacies—the knowledge a person needs to defend herself in a world awash in fallacies. In addition to combining the content of my 42 Fallacies and 30 More Fallacies, this book features some revisions as well as a new section on common formal fallacies. The focus is on providing the reader with definitions and examples of these common fallacies rather than being a handbook on winning arguments or a text on general logic. The book presents the following 73 informal fallacies: Accent, Fallacy of Accident, Fallacy of Ad Hominem, Ad Hominem Tu Quoque, Amphiboly, Fallacy of Anecdotal Evidence, Fallacy Of Appeal to the Consequences of a Belief, Appeal to Authority, Fallacious Appeal to Belief, Appeal to Common Practice, Appeal to Emotion, Appeal to Envy, Appeal to Fear, Appeal to Flattery, Appeal to Group Identity, Appeal to Guilt, Appeal to Novelty, Appeal to Pity, Appeal to Popularity, Appeal to Ridicule, Appeal to Spite, Appeal to Tradition, Appeal to Silence, Appeal to Vanity, Argumentum ad Hitlerum, Begging the Question, Biased Generalization, Burden of Proof, Complex Question, Composition, Fallacy of Confusing Cause and Effect, Confusing Explanations and Excuses, Circumstantial Ad Hominem, Cum Hoc, Ergo Propter Hoc, Division, Fallacy of Equivocation, Fallacy of Fallacious Example, Fallacy False Dilemma, Gambler's Fallacy, Genetic Fallacy, Guilt by Association, Hasty Generalization, Historian's Fallacy, Illicit Conversion, Ignoring a Common Cause, Incomplete Evidence, Middle Ground, Misleading Vividness, Moving the Goal Posts, Oversimplified Cause, Overconfident Inference from Unknown Statistics, Pathetic Fallacy, Peer Pressure, Personal Attack, Poisoning the Well, Positive Ad Hominem, Post Hoc, Proving X, Concluding Y, Psychologist's fallacy, Questionable Cause, Rationalization, Red Herring, Reification, Fallacy of Relativist Fallacy, Slippery Slope, Special Pleading, Spotlight, Straw Man, Texas Sharpshooter Fallacy, Two Wrongs Make a Right, Victim Fallacy, Weak Analogy. The book contains the following three formal (deductive) fallacies: Affirming the Consequent, Denying the Antecedent, Undistributed Middle.

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Customer Reviews

This is NOT a book written for professors and PhDs. It is filled with examples of reasoning that the average person runs into everyday, and some of the examples are even humorous. If read carefully, this book should contribute to the quality of reasoning of the reader, which is the purpose of logic. Logic, sound reason, is a key factor in how well we adapt to and perceive our lives, and good reasoning can greatly contribute the quality of life. It is also a neglected pillar of Western society (and played a key role in making the West the source of so much learning, technology, etc.) Scientific method, for example, is a form of sound, systematic reason. So yeah, I can't say enough about books like this that present the subject in such an accessible way.

Clearly a book for the person who engages in discussions with those who have opinions different from their own -- even if you could care less about changing their minds. Takes a bit of reading and some thought to understand, but with the examples provided, the "jargon" comes clearer. It's nice to be able to respond to those pompous people who think they know everything -- and use faulty analogies, erroneous examples, and so on -- in a manner which demonstrates their logic just doesn't hold up because it is based on one or more methods of fallacious reasoning.

Among the books I have purchased in by far this is one of the most useful I have got. I purchased it because there are some crazy guys that love to claim the logic to "win" debates. They are chasing every phrase to point fallacies. That kind of persons are really bothering as they are immatures, but tired of that decided to give a try to these book. I am happy to have done it. The book recommends precisely use logic to thing clearly and not to win in conversations, logic is not a tool of vanity or self-complacency. As such the examples help us to get the peace in our minds that comes from a better understanding.

Aside from covering a large list of fallacies for a very reasonable price, this book is written very well. Good use of language, minimal errors, and includes great, often humorous, examples. Addendum: Others have commented on it: there is some debate as to whether certain things are fallacies or not. Some people may find certain things to not be fallacious, others may find the stated exceptions to also be fallacious. I'll put it simply: everyone makes mistakes, which is why you don't accept something as valid without looking into it a bit. To not do so is itself an Appeal to Authority. Check out other books as well, and understand that this isn't perfect, but it is great.

Having read two other books regarding "arguments" and fallacies, I did not find this book as informative as I hoped. It felt like the same descriptions, repeated to make up all 76. Perhaps it would have been better had it been written the 20 top Fallacies? .

A well-written, easy to understand guide to the broken logic the we all use (yes, me too) and others use (ads, politicians, etc.) to manipulate us every day. We all know this stuff but we miss it, ignore it and get fooled by it constantly. Keep this book handy so that when someone says something that doesn't quite square up logically you can review the book and find the fallacy. As "The Who" said, "You won't be fooled again."

In terms of price-to-value this is the best book I have found on the subject. Caveat Emptor seems to be the law of the land when it comes to advertising, political speeches, and even the news. It is essential that you understand all the ways people pull the wool over your eyes - and even the ways you might fool yourself. This is a great straightforward tool to help you get to the bottom of things.

I think the book is very well written. Very cogent and clearly presented. I, on the other hand, may be too stupid to read it. Hanging on by my fingernails, but, enjoying the ride. I highly recommend it to

readers who want to stretch.

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