Spot the Fallacy

Eight reasoning mistakes in plain words

Attack the person

(ad hominem)

Going after who says it instead of what they say.

"Don't listen to Sam's idea for the garden. He is always late."

Twisting words

(straw man)

Changing what someone said so it is easier to knock down.

"Let's add a reading corner." "So you want to close the playground?"

Only two choices

(false dilemma)

Acting as if there are only two options when there are more.

"Either we play soccer at lunch or we do nothing at all."

Everybody does it

(bandwagon)

Saying something is good or true because many people do it.

"Everyone is buying this game, so it must be the best."

Wrong expert

(appeal to false authority)

Trusting someone who is famous but not an expert on the topic.

"A famous chef says this bike is the safest one."

Slippery slope

(slippery slope)

Claiming one small step will surely lead to a huge bad result.

"One extra snack day, and soon we will have snacks all day and no lessons."

Too few examples

(hasty generalization)

Deciding about everyone from one or two cases.

"My two cousins hate broccoli, so nobody likes broccoli."

Lucky socks

(false cause)

Thinking that because B followed A, A caused B.

"I wore red socks and we won, so the socks made us win."

A fallacy does not prove a claim false. It only means this reason does not support it.

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