

Answer Key for Practice Quiz Famous Fallacies

1. Misapplying a Rule ... *normally*, shooting at someone might be a jailable offense, but clearly not when the 'someone' is a police officer returning fire at bank robbers.
2. Abusive Ad Hominem ... Even emotionally disturbed people can be car savvy.
3. No Fallacy ... Being emotionally disturbed is relevant to who a person chooses to date.
4. Straw Man ... To be against hate-speech laws is not the same as being an anarchist ... that's exaggerating someone's position in order to reject it.
5. False cause, *post hoc* ... this is tricky ... the conclusion that the Vikings are jerks indicates the speaker is asserting a causal relationship between the player's expression of support for gay marriage and his firing ... which is an instance of *post hoc*. (If you thought it was a reasonable inference because of the rare voicing of support for gay rights by NFL players, you were probably not aware that Chris Kluwe, the Viking's punter, is an active and popular public defender of gay marriage.)
6. False cause, mere contributive cause ... it's possible the stereo is the only cause of the headache, but the speaker doesn't consider other causes and looks motivated to find a singular cause by the chore of having to make a special trip to the store for relief.
7. No Fallacy ... if Alan really is a social clod, you don't ask him to do something that requires skill.
8. Complex Question ... who said the object of the comment was fighting with alcoholism?
9. Begging the Question ... it doesn't occur to the speaker that their reason is as poorly known as their first assertion.
10. No Fallacy ... people don't say this in order to convince someone there are only two options ... they say this to inform them only two options are acceptable.
11. No Fallacy ... each step is reasonable ... compare this to 16.
12. No Fallacy ... unless the team is monumentally bad at baton passing, this is reasonable.

13. Amphibole ... who is in the pajamas is a question raised by word order, and the speaker (Groucho Marx, again) chooses the nutty option.
14. Hasty Generalization ... one kid's lousy math performance doesn't justify the universal conclusion about the district.
15. Tu Quoque ... even a hypocrite might give a good argument ... the speaker mentioned that the Congresswoman argued her case, and then ignored what she argued.
16. Slipper Slope ... it's not reasonable that trying marijuana will lead to getting you shot ... each step in the series is dubious, unlike the steps in example 11.
17. Composition ... maybe these old-timers just started the club yesterday.
18. Equivocation ... the first mention of innocent means 'someone capable of guilt but not guilty' ... the second mention of innocent means 'someone not a candidate for guilt', and to many reasonable people means 'not the kind of entity capable of guilt, because not a being with a will'.
19. No Fallacy ... if PETA radicals really will cause an uproar, perhaps you really don't want to publically make your arguments. (NOTE: if you interpreted the advice to mean 'you shouldn't believe animals have less value than human lives because of the danger from PETA radicals ... this would be Appeal to Force ... ALSO, Appeal to the People, indirect makes some sense, since there's an element of peer pressure going on ... but just barely. Best answer: No Fallacy, close second Force ... I wouldn't put this on a live quiz ☺)
20. Weak Analogy ... there aren't many options to cars; pesticides typically have options, etc.
21. Appeal to the People, indirect ... it's close to No Fallacy since the conclusion is weak (not saying belief in God is true ... just requesting a trial run of religious life or something) and the majority of the world believing X is often some evidence for X. Still, this is one of those topics no one is an expert on, and so offering the bulk of humanity as a sort of authority is dicey.
22. Appeal to Unqualified Authority ... Einstein is a trained physicist, not a theologian or philosopher, and even so, again, no one is an authority on this topic.