The gambler’s fallacy
Believing that ‘runs’ occur to statistically independent phenomena such as roulette whee spins.
Red had come up six times in a row on the roulette wheel, so Greg knew that it was close to certain that black would be next up. Suffering an economic form of natural selection with this thinking, he soon lost all of his savings.

The strawman
Misrepresenting someone’s argument to make it easier to attack.
After Will said that we should put more money into health and education, Alyse responded by saying that he was unaware that Will hates our country so much that he wants to leave it defenestrated by cutting military spending.

False cause
Presuming that a real or perceived relationship between things means that one is the cause of the other.
Pointing to a fancy chart, Roger shows how temperatures have been rising over the past few centuries, whilst at the same time the numbers of pirates have been decreasing. Thus pirates cool the world and global warming is a hoax.

Slippery slope
Asserting that if we allow A to happen, then Z will consequently happen too, therefore A should not happen.
Colin Closet asserts that if we allow same-sex couples to marry, then the next thing we know we’ll be allowing people to marry their parents, their cars and even monkeys.

Ad hominem
Attacking your opponent’s character or personal traits in an attempt to undermine their argument.
Bob says that he knows a scientist who also questions evolution (and presumably isn’t a primate).

Loaded question
Asking a question that has an assumption built into it so that it can’t be answered without appearing guilty.
Shamus pointed a drunken finger at Sean and asked him to explain how so many people could believe in leprechauns if they’re only a silly old superstition.

Bandwagon
Appealing to popularity or the fact that many people do something as an attempted form of validation.
Shamus pointed a drunken finger at Sean and asked him to explain how so many people could believe in leprechauns if they’re only a silly old superstition. Sean, however, had had a few too many Guinness himself and fell off his chair.

Appeal to emotion
Manipulating an emotional response in place of a valid or compelling argument.
Luke didn’t want to eat his sheep’s liver with chopped liver and Brussels sprouts, so his father told him to think about the poor starving children in a third world country who weren’t fortunate enough to have any food at all.

The fallacy of emotion
Presuming that because a claim has been poorly argued, or a fallacy has been made, that it is necessarily wrong.
Recognizing that Amanda had committed a fallacy in arguing that we should eat healthy food because a nutritional food said it was popular, Alyse said we should therefore eat bacon and double cheeseburgers every day.

Burden of proof
Saying that the burden of proof lies not with the person making the claim, but with someone else to disprove.
Believing that one finds something difficult to understand that it’s therefore not true.
Kirk drew a picture of a fish and a human and with effusive disdain asked Richard if he really thought we were stupid enough to believe that a fish somehow turned into a human through just, like, random things happening over time.

Personal incredulity
Saying that because one finds something difficult to understand that it’s therefore not true.
When the judge asked the defendant why he hadn’t paid his parking fines, he said that he shouldn’t have to pay them because the sign said ‘Free for parking here’ and he so naturally presumed that it would be fine to park there.

The no true Scotsman
Making what could be called an appeal to purity as a way to dismiss relevant criticisms or flaws of an argument.
Angus declares that Scotsmen do not put sugar on their porridge. Furious, like a true Scot, Angus says that no “true” Scot man puts sugar on his porridge.

Genetic
Judging something good or bad on the basis of where it comes from, or from whom it comes.
Accused on the 6-0 rules of corruption and taking bribes, the senator said that we should all be very wary of the things we hear in the media, because we all know how very unreliable the media can be.

Anecdotal
Cherry-picking data clusters to suit an argument, or finding a pattern to fit a presumption.
The makers of Sugarette Drinks point to research showing that of the five countries where Sugarette drinks sell, people one, two, three of them as in the top ten healthiest countries on Earth, therefore Sugarette drinks are healthy.

The middle ground
Saying that a compromise, or middle point, between two extremes is the truth.
Holly said that vaccinations cause autism in children, but her scientifically well read friend Caleb said that this claim had been debunked and proven false. Their friend Alex offered a compromise that vaccinations cause some autism.

The appeal to tradition
Saying that because something has been done for a long time, it is therefore right.
Lee was angry that some people were calling the police to report that someone was playing video games too much.

Misunderstanding
Misinterpreting a claim, or misreading evidence.
Sally presents an eloquent and compelling case about the importance of health and education, Warren responded by saying that if we allow A to happen, then Z will consequently happen too, therefore A should not happen.

The appeal to ignorance
Presuming that a lack of knowledge about something means that we shouldn’t do it.
Sally presented an eloquent and compelling case about the importance of health and education, Warren responded by saying the numbers are rising. Screaming that we shouldn’t do anything until we know more, Warren then presented a load of not very convincing facts.

The appeal to popularity
Presuming that because something is popular, it must be right.
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