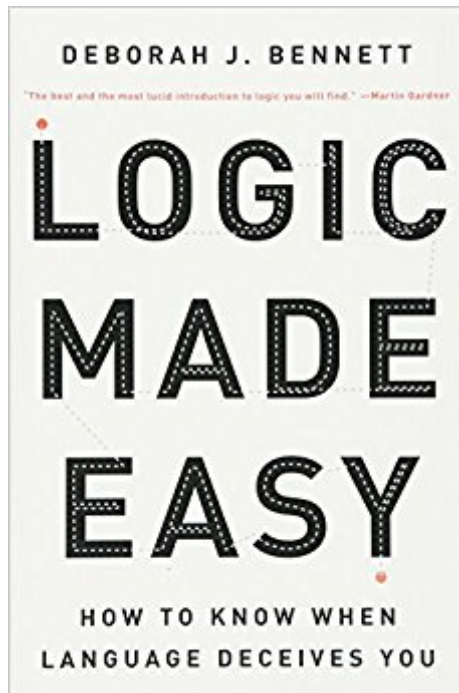




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# Logic Made Easy: How To Know When Language Deceives You



## Synopsis

"The best introduction to logic you will find." — Martin Gardner "Professor Bennett entertains as she instructs," writes Publishers Weekly about the penetrating yet practical *Logic Made Easy*. This brilliantly clear and gratifyingly concise treatment of the ancient Greek discipline identifies the illogical in everything from street signs to tax forms. Complete with puzzles you can try yourself, *Logic Made Easy* invites readers to identify and ultimately remedy logical slips in everyday life. Designed with dozens of visual examples, the book guides you through those hair-raising times when logic is at odds with our language and common sense. *Logic Made Easy* is indeed one of those rare books that will actually make you a more logical human being. 36 illustrations.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; Revised ed. edition (July 17, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393326926

ISBN-13: 978-0393326925

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 41 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #95,757 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Pure Mathematics > Logic](#) #68 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > Logic](#) #110 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Logic & Language](#)

## Customer Reviews

In this compact, fluently written survey leavened with humor, New Jersey mathematics professor Bennett (Randomness) entertains as she instructs, focusing on "the barriers we face in trying to communicate logically with each other." The author covers the ancient Greeks (the Greek word *logos* means "knowledge"), then such giants as Leibniz and Newton, who helped rescue the study of logic from classical languages, finally modern mathematicians and philosophers like Whitehead and Russell. In discussing topics like syllogisms, she uses tables and diagrams that shouldn't daunt anyone with a firm foundation in high school algebra and geometry. The book's most interesting chapter explains why *if* is perhaps the most problematical word in any verbal proposition. Everyone, including the hopelessly innumerate, will find Bennett's lessons in the tricks of speech invaluable,

particularly in this election year. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"In this case, you can judge a book by its cover--or at least its title: the author makes a promise right at the start and then follows through by making logic easy for readers to understand."

This book actually does what it says! I got introduced to it by a The Knife of Aristotle and immediately got hooked up on learning more about logic!! It is well written and truly makes logic accessible to anyone who wants to learn the basics.

Dr. Deborah J. Bennett, a professor of mathematics, writes about logic making it easy and simple for us to understand. Logic is not always up front. Dr. Bennett writes the book to help us understand logic. I would recommend this book for anybody interested in opening their minds. This book would be great read for an aspiring college student. High School students heading off to colleges and universities should have some idea of logic. It's not taught enough in the earlier grades. Dr. Bennett's approach is simple and practical advice and much more common sense. She writes to the reader rather than preachy and out of tone. Dr. Bennett writes as if you are right there with her having a discussion. It's a good discussion.

This book is excellent. They use it to teach logic in The Knife of Aristotle.

Laborious reading. Informative but badly written

I really enjoyed reading this book. I've been working to get ready for the LSAT and it laid some ground work that I'd been taught, but didn't understand. This made it easy and understandable. I'm appreciative of the author and how she conveys the message of logic. I'm very glad I purchased this, because it contained exactly what I needed, at the time I needed it. I would really like to continue to expand my knowledge of logic, and arguments. Looking forward to the next books and suggestions.

The selection of topics for discussion in this book is a bit mystifying. One would think that this book would attempt to make logic simple. Bennett has chosen to discuss mnemonics for 64 moods of syllogisms (of which only 4 are valid), but does not elaborate (significantly) on such concepts as

"maldistributed middle" or the fallacy of four terms, which seem to me to be much more relevant to avoiding errors in logic. There is a lot of historical discussion about who invented what method of diagramming syllogisms and the psychological problems with being logical, but there is relatively little about informal fallacies. Perhaps the problem is that the title of the book should be "The Topic of Logic Made Simple" instead of one that implies "Being Logical Made Simple."

A review on the back of the book reads "In this case, you can judge a book by its cover - or at least its title: the author makes a promise right at the start and then follows through by making logic easy for readers to understand." I completely disagree. The book has nothing to do with lessons on logic. It won't help us to improve our poor logic after all. In fact, the book is all about history and gossips of logic: how logic was invented, developed and taught. After reading the book, you'll know that Aristotle and his followers developed the basic principles of logic; you'll understand that the language of logic is different from our daily one; but you won't know how to win the next arguments with your neighbors. Sorry, this book makes you more knowledgeable, but not smarter or more logical as it promises. The writing is extremely poor: plain, frigid, full of jargon and new definitions. Every chapter always ends with a short paragraph forcefully linking to the next one. You can easily read the formula of her writing. Some chapter titles sound childish, e.g., the chapter about "If/then" structure was named "When things are lffy". The author somehow idolized Aristotle, Wason, Johnson-Laird and some of her colleagues, by quoting them a lot of times. The endnote of the book is dishonest! I have the feeling that the author tried to show off her research by citing a lot of texts which were vaguely listed in the endnote. For example, note 0.3 reads "Educational Testing Service (1992)." I bet you'd never find out what it is. Or note 1.2, "Plato (1965)". or note 2.7,9,10 "Euler (1997)". No way to search for those texts! The endnote is completely useless for ordinary readers; and citing them is meaningless. Given the author was teaching college Maths, this kind of presentation is unacceptable. Conclusion: Misleading and poorly written book. I gave it 2-star for the author's good intention and effort.

I make everything difficult and this puts things in a simpler perspective, as well as an easy read. Very satisfied.

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