

Name:  
Section:



Date:  
Score:

## Logic Challenge: Identify the Assumptions

Have you ever debated a friend and thought, "Hmm, their argument sounds logical... but something feels off?"

If so, you were probably noticing a missing piece — an **assumption**.

Many arguments rely on unstated premises: hidden ideas that connect one point to another.

By identifying these hidden **assumptions**, we can better evaluate an argument's strength and reasoning.

Here's an example. Suppose someone says,



*John has a law degree. Therefore, John must be wealthy.*

The hidden **assumption** here is that everyone with a law degree makes a lot of money.

But this isn't necessarily true — not all law graduates are rich. Some don't even practice law!

Because the **assumption** is flawed, the argument falls apart.



Here's another example: Imagine someone claims,

*Getting a degree in Russian Studies is a waste of time because you'll never get rich from it.*

The hidden **assumption** is that a degree is only worthwhile if it leads to wealth.

This idea can easily be challenged. By uncovering this unstated premise, you now have a powerful new angle for critique.

**Now it's your turn. Identify the hidden assumptions in the next 8 arguments. You'll have 20 seconds to respond to each. If you need more time, simply pause the video. Let's get started!**

1.It is certainly worth the money. It is nearly 100 years old.

What is the assumption?

2. Football causes injuries, and is therefore not a sport we should encourage.

What is the assumption?

3. Their relationship will never work. She is 15 years older than him.

What is the assumption?

4.There is nothing wrong with using your cell phone in class. Other students do it all the time.

What is the assumption?

5.His sister is a musician. She obviously has no money.

What is the assumption?

6.Why did you expect him to be honest? He is a politician.

What is the assumption?

7.You should be able to say the word “hell.” I mean, it’s in the Bible.

What is the assumption?

8. Mike listens to country music. He is obviously from a small town.

What is the assumption?

## **Answers:**

1. It is certainly worth the money. It is nearly 100 years old.

Assumption:

Anything that is old (or nearly 100 years old) is valuable.

2. Football causes injuries, and is therefore not a sport we should encourage.

Assumption:

Any sport that causes injuries should not be encouraged.

3. Their relationship will never work. She is 15 years older than him.

Assumption:

A relationship with a significant age difference cannot succeed.

4. There is nothing wrong with using your cell phone in class. Other students do it all the time.

Assumption:

If other people do something, it must be acceptable.

5. His sister is a musician. She obviously has no money.

Assumption:

Musicians are generally poor.

6. Why did you expect him to be honest? He is a politician.

Assumption:

Politicians are inherently dishonest.

7. You should be able to say the word "hell." I mean, it's in the Bible.

Assumption:

If something appears in the Bible, it is acceptable to say.

8. Mike listens to country music. He is obviously from a small town.

Assumption:

People who listen to country music are from small towns.