



The Power of Logical Thinking: Easy Lessons in the Art of Reasoning...and Hard Facts About Its Absence in Our Lives

By Marilyn vos Savant

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America has become a society devoid of understanding of the power of logic and numbers. All too often, we rely on our intuition or on empty statistics to formulate opinions about ourselves and our world. As a result of inadequate schooling in the art of reasoning, we have become a people unable to make truly logical decisions, intimidated by numbers, and too passive to reverse this disturbing trend. The Power of Logical Thinking addresses these concerns, illustrating how you can reason better, how numbers are used against you, and how your vote may be affected. Marilyn vos Savant writes, "We can't trust our intuitions, our statisticians, or our politicians. The 1992 presidential campaign is a case in point. Numbers were used, abused, and misused by the candidates as never before in the history of our country. Voters were easily manipulated, setting a precedent for years to come. Will it happen again? Or will we be more prepared for future elections?" Part One of The Power of Logical Thinking explains the most provocative of the counterintuitive problems that Marilyn vos Savant has encountered in recent years, such as the now classic "Monty Hall Dilemma," the improbability of winning the lottery, and much more. Part Two shows how statistics have quietly become a tool of persuasion instead of education. In addition to exploring puzzles and paradoxes, these sections explain the underlying reasoning to help you answer questions such as which surgery should you choose? what are your odds of having breast cancer? do drug-testing and AIDS-testing give you yes/no answers? In Part Three, vos Savant illustrates how our votes are affected, with examples of selective logic, specious reasoning, and outright sophistry collected from the campaigns of Bill Clinton, George Bush, and Ross Perot.

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- Sales Rank: #874384 in Books
- Brand: Unknown
- Published on: 1997-04-15
- Released on: 1997-04-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .52" w x 6.00" l, .77 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 228 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Savant, the Parade magazine columnist known for having the highest recorded I.Q., has written an interesting analysis of the use and misuse of statistics. Using the style of earlier books such as *I've Forgotten Everything I Learned in School* (LJ 1/94), she covers mathematical reasoning that seems illogical at first glance but can be explained rationally. She also presents at length (covered further in a long appendix) the controversy that has become known as the "Monty Hall dilemma" and discusses financial twists on logic and misused statistics to convey information or benefit a political candidate. (President Clinton takes the brunt of criticism in this section.) Recommended for libraries where Savant's earlier writings have been popular. ?Marguerite Mroz, Baltimore Cty. P.L., Towson, Md.

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From [Booklist](#)

Fellow English majors, arise! This book is for those of us whose brains stalled when faced with the threat of "word problems" in math class. Vos Savant shows us how even the most well educated can be semiliterate in the arts of reasoning and problem solving. She illustrates how easily we are duped by "counter-intuitive" problems whose solutions run against the grain of instinct. In part 1, vos Savant analyzes examples of these problems, including the famous "Monty Hall Dilemma" that initiated a deluge of mail from irate mathematicians after she posed it in her Sunday column. Part 2 unveils how easy it is to misunderstand mean-spirited statistics. This section also contains fascinatingly thorough descriptions of every conceivable verbal fallacy--a tour de force to delight the number-impaired. Part 3 is an eye-opening analysis of the ways politicians use statistics, "selective logic," and faulty reasoning to sway our votes. Vos Savant's clear, logical approach to convoluted problems is a tonic for anyone who feels queasy around economics, statistics, word problems, or politicians. *Patricia Hassler*

Review

America has become a society devoid of any clear understanding of the power of logic and numbers. All too often we rely on our intuition or on statistics thrown at us in newspapers. As a result of inadequate schools and handy calculators and computers, Americans have become a people frightened by numbers and unable to make logical decisions that can and do affect their lives.

In *The Power Of Logical Thinking*, Marilyn vos Savant (the popular Parade columnist) has written a classic and enduring work that will help restore our ability to reason, to use logic in everyday life, and to interpret what the numbers really mean.

Vos Savant examines puzzles and paradoxes that confront us daily, and demonstrates how statistics are often used against us by government officials, political partisans, cultural demonizers, and religious demagogues. And, in the final and most controversial section of this groundbreaking volume, vos Savant analyzes the use of misleading statistics in the 1992 presidential race, so we can be on the lookout during future elections. The most provocative book about numbers in recent memory, *The Power Of Logical Thinking* shows us how we can take control of our own numerical destiny in the years to come -- and I don't mean numerology! *The Power Of Logical Thinking* is highly rewarding reading for freethinkers of all political shades as it shares the hard facts about what havoc the absence of logical thought can wreck in our lives and the well-being of our communities. -- *Midwest Book Review*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Esther Cunningham:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open as well as read a book titled *The Power of Logical Thinking: Easy Lessons in the Art of Reasoning...and Hard Facts About Its Absence in Our Lives*? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have some other opinion?

Donald Foster:

The ability that you get from *The Power of Logical Thinking: Easy Lessons in the Art of Reasoning...and Hard Facts About Its Absence in Our Lives* will be the more deep you looking the information that hide inside the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to recognise but *The Power of Logical Thinking: Easy Lessons in the Art of Reasoning...and Hard Facts About Its Absence in Our Lives* giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by simply anyone who read that because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this kind of *The Power of Logical Thinking: Easy Lessons in the Art of Reasoning...and Hard Facts About Its Absence in Our Lives* instantly.

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