

Argument and Debate

WORD LIST

apologist
indisputable

dissuade
infer

dupe
red herring

fallacy
refute

imply
substantiate

No two people think exactly the same way. We all have different views, opinions, and perspectives on issues. That's why argument and debate are part of life. The words in this lesson will help you understand the vocabulary involved in conveying a particular point of view.

- 1. apologist** (ə-pŏl'ə-jĭst) *noun* from Greek *apologia*, "a speech in defense of a person or an idea"
A person who speaks in defense of a person, an idea, or a position

 - The **apologist** for the striking players argued that they were only asking for their fair share of the wealth they helped to bring in.
- 2. dissuade** (dĭ-swād') *verb* from Latin *dis-*, "not" + *suadere*, "to advise"
To discourage from doing something through persuasion

 - The experienced camper tried to **dissuade** the eleven-year-old from attempting the difficult hike.
- 3. dupe** (dŏp) from Old French, probably *huppe*, "a foolish-looking bird"

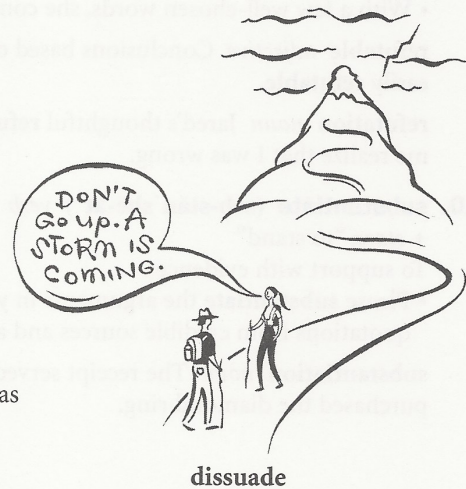
 - verb* To take advantage of people by tricking or fooling them
 - When the couple saw that the vacation home they had rented was in a swamp, they realized they had been **duped**.
 - noun* Someone tricked and taken advantage of
 - Because he was too trusting, Mel became the **dupe** of dishonest financial advisers, who got him to invest in a phony get-rich-quick scheme.
- 4. fallacy** (fāl'ə-sē) *noun* from Latin *fallere*, "to deceive"

 - A false belief
 - It is a **fallacy** to think that the best candidate will always win the election.
 - Faulty and illogical reasoning
 - The talk show host lost viewer confidence because his arguments were often full of **fallacies**.

fallacious *adjective* The debate coach pointed out the problem with Mario's **fallacious** reasoning.
- 5. imply** (ĭm-plĭ') *verb* from Latin *in-*, "in" + *plic*, "fold"
To hint; to suggest indirectly

 - A frown **implies** unhappiness or dissatisfaction.

implication *noun* When Dad said, "You know your curfew," the **implication** was that we'd better not be late.



Imply means "to hint"; *infer* means "to draw a conclusion." People often make *inferences* from things that are *implied*.

6. indisputable (in'dī-spyōō'tə-bəl) *adjective* from Latin *in-*, “not” + *disputare*, “to dispute”

Beyond doubt or question; certain

- The **indisputable** evidence established the defendant's guilt and brought about his conviction.

7. infer (in-fūr') *verb* from Latin *in-*, “not” + *ferre*, “to bring”

To draw a conclusion from evidence

- I **inferred** from her smiling face that she was happy.

inference *noun* After listening to the city council discuss the budget, the mayor made an **inference** that a tax increase was unavoidable.

8. red herring (rēd hēr'ing) *noun*

Something that draws attention away from the main issue

- The campaign's focus on the candidate's “likability” was a **red herring** meant to distract voters from his lack of experience and shady past.

9. refute (rī-fyōōt') *verb* from Latin *re-*, “against” + *future*, “to put forth”

To prove to be false or invalid; to deny the accuracy or truth of

- With a few well-chosen words, she completely **refuted** his argument.

refutable *adjective* Conclusions based on faulty reasoning are easily **refutable**.

refutation *noun* Jared's thoughtful **refutation** of my argument made me realize that I was wrong.

10. substantiate (səb-stān'shē-āt') *verb* from Latin *sub-*, “under” + *stare*, “to stand”

To support with evidence

- Please **substantiate** the arguments in your paper with statistics and quotations from credible sources and authorities.

substantiation *noun* The receipt served as **substantiation** that he had purchased the diamond ring.

WORD ENRICHMENT

The red herring: a fishy distraction

Fox hunting was once widely popular among the English upper class. This pastime, which has become controversial in recent years, consisted of hunters riding on horseback, following their hounds as the dogs tracked foxes by scent. When the hunters wanted to prolong a hunt or to test the tracking abilities of their hounds, they would drag smelly herrings across the trail. (The herrings were a reddish color from the curing process used to preserve them). It is also said that British fugitives, in the 1800s, rubbed herrings across their escape trails to divert any bloodhounds that might have been chasing them.

WRITE THE CORRECT WORD

Write the correct word in the space next to each definition.

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|---------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. beyond doubt | _____ | 6. to draw a conclusion |
| _____ | 2. something that draws attention away | _____ | 7. a person who defends an idea |
| _____ | 3. to support with evidence | _____ | 8. to discourage someone |
| _____ | 4. to fool someone | _____ | 9. to prove wrong |
| _____ | 5. a false belief | _____ | 10. to suggest indirectly |

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

Write the letter for the word that best completes each sentence.

- _____ 1. At age four, Stephanie rejected the _____ that the moon is made of green cheese.
a. red herring b. fallacy c. apologist d. inference
- _____ 2. After studying the evidence, the detective _____ what had happened at the scene.
a. inferred b. implied c. dissuaded d. duped
- _____ 3. Galileo _____ the idea that the sun revolves around the earth.
a. implied b. duped c. dissuaded d. refuted
- _____ 4. Nothing you say can _____ me from becoming a pilot.
a. refute b. infer c. dupe d. dissuade
- _____ 5. The child's cries of agony were just a(n) _____ to distract his mother's attention from the broken lamp.
a. substantiation b. apologist c. red herring d. fallacy
- _____ 6. Although she never actually said it, Mom _____ that we were going to get a pet.
a. refuted b. implied c. substantiated d. inferred
- _____ 7. Patrick is a loyal _____ for the idea of lengthening the school year.
a. implication b. fallacy c. apologist d. red herring
- _____ 8. After her experiment yielded the same result several times, Ann hoped that her findings would be considered _____.
a. indisputable b. dissuaded c. duped d. implied
- _____ 9. Sharlene _____ her brother into believing that it was his turn to do the dishes.
a. dissuaded b. refuted c. implied d. duped
- _____ 10. There is little evidence to _____ the existence of the Loch Ness monster.
a. dissuade b. substantiate c. dupe d. apologize
- Challenge:** Without meaning to, the officer on the witness stand _____ that the new evidence _____ the defendant's claim.
_____ a. dissuaded...duped b. implied...substantiated c. inferred...dissuaded

QWERTY

QWERTY. What do those letters mean to you? The next time you sit down at a computer, look at the keyboard. You will find these six letters lined up on the left side of the top row of letters. You will also see that many of the alphabet's most commonly used letters—such as *e*, *i*, and *o*—can only be typed by moving your fingers away from the center row, which is where your fingers naturally fall. (1) The QWERTY keyboard *indisputably* lacks efficiency. (2) Did we get *duped* into using it?

Today, typing is usually faster than writing by hand. (3) We could *infer* from this that our current keyboard design was created to maximize speed. (4) But this would be a *fallacy*. In fact, the keyboard was designed to be slow!

Originally, the typewriter was invented to provide readable, standardized print, not to increase the speed of writing. In the late 1860s, Christopher Sholes invented the first commercial typewriter. There was a problem, though: The typewriter keys tended to jam when people typed too fast. So Sholes arranged a keyboard so that letters commonly typed together, such as *th* and *sh*, could not be hit at the same time. Thus, the QWERTY arrangement was born.

However, as typewriter design improved, keys stopped jamming. (5) In today's world, it is easy to *refute* the claim that the QWERTY keyboard arrangement is the best one. So why is it still in use?

The answer lies, at least in part, in a contest that took place in 1888.



Mrs. L. V. Longley, head of a Cincinnati typing school, sponsored a race between her star pupil, Frank McGurrin, and rival typist, Louis Taub.

(6) Mrs. Longley had developed a ten-finger typing method based on the QWERTY keyboard, and she became an *apologist* for the arrangement. McGurrin used a QWERTY keyboard; Taub did not. (7) In a highly publicized event, McGurrin soundly defeated Taub, *substantiating* the superiority of the QWERTY arrangement in the eyes of the public. (8) The truth is, however, that the contest was something of a *red herring*. The superiority of McGurrin's typing was probably a result of the "touch-typing" system he had developed, which enabled him to type without looking at the keys.

Whatever its history, there is still strong resistance to changing the QWERTY keyboard. One reason is that most people are used to this keyboard. Those who already know how to type do not want to have to relearn this skill to accommodate a new arrangement. Also, companies that produce keyboards have a considerable financial investment in the current letter positions.

(9) Not everyone has been *dissuaded* from trying to improve this keyboard design, however. Dr. Anton Dvorak patented a keyboard that puts all of the vowels on the line where we usually place our fingers. In one experiment, he found that a person's fingers traveled only one mile during a typical day's typing on his keyboard. In contrast, a person's fingers traveled at least sixteen miles when typing on the QWERTY keyboard. (10) These results *imply* that the Dvorak arrangement is superior.

So the next time your fingers are tired from keyboarding, think of Dr. Dvorak. Perhaps someday his arrangement will give those fingers a rest.

Each sentence below refers to a numbered sentence in the passage. Write the letter of the choice that gives the sentence a meaning that is closest to the original sentence.

- _____ 1. The QWERTY keyboard _____ lacks efficiency.
 a. certainly b. falsely c. discouragingly d. usually
- _____ 2. Did we get _____ into using it?
 a. distracted b. drawn c. fooled d. proven
- _____ 3. We could _____ from this that our current keyboard design was created to maximize speed.
 a. suggest indirectly b. prove c. conclude d. believe mistakenly
- _____ 4. But this would be a _____.
 a. false belief b. distraction c. trick d. hint

- _____ 5. It is easy to _____ the claim that the QWERTY keyboard arrangement is the best one.
a. support b. prove wrong c. distract from d. discourage
- _____ 6. Mrs. Longley became a(n) _____ for the arrangement.
a. opponent b. debater c. teacher d. defender
- _____ 7. In a highly publicized event, McGurrin soundly defeated Taub, _____ the superiority of the QWERTY arrangement in the eyes of the public.
a. fooling b. questioning c. denying d. supporting
- _____ 8. The truth is, however, that the contest was something of a(n) _____.
a. distraction b. defense c. discouragement d. error
- _____ 9. Not everyone has been _____ from trying to improve this keyboard design, however.
a. supported b. discouraged c. proved wrong d. tricked
- _____ 10. These results _____ that the Dvorak arrangement is superior.
a. reason b. prove c. suggest d. conclude

Indicate whether the statements below are TRUE or FALSE according to the passage.

- _____ 1. The first commercial keyboard was invented in the 1860s.
- _____ 2. The QWERTY keyboard was originally designed to maximize the typist's speed.
- _____ 3. There are more efficient designs than our current keyboard arrangement.

WRITING EXTENDED RESPONSES

You have just read about the development of the QWERTY keyboard and about some arguments for and against changing it. Do you think it should be changed? In a persuasive essay, argue for or against changing the current keyboard arrangement. Your essay should be at least three paragraphs long. Include at least two reasons for your position and provide support for each one. Use at least three lesson words in your essay and underline them.

WRITE THE DERIVATIVE

Complete the sentence by writing the correct form of the word shown in parentheses. You may not need to change the form that is given.

- _____ 1. Is there no _____ Ted from attempting that difficult dive? (*dissuade*)
- _____ 2. That statement is absolutely _____. (*fallacy*)
- _____ 3. Dr. Kim's _____ of Paul's argument was brilliant. (*refute*)
- _____ 4. This is _____ one of the toughest golf courses in the country. (*indisputable*)

- _____ 5. After everything you've told me about your new roommate, I can make the _____ that I would like her a lot. (*infer*)
- _____ 6. Accusations about the CEO's personal life were just _____ meant to distract from more pressing issues within the company. (*red herring*)
- _____ 7. What are the _____ of the new policy? (*imply*)
- _____ 8. _____ for the tax hike faced fierce opposition. (*apologist*)
- _____ 9. Oh no! I've been _____! (*dupe*)
- _____ 10. Mr. Largren won't accept your paper unless it has adequate _____. (*substantiate*)

FIND THE EXAMPLE

Choose the answer that best describes the action or situation.

- _____ 1. Something that would best *substantiate* your opinion
 a. others' opinions b. anecdotes c. facts d. a relevant joke
- _____ 2. Something most likely to *dupe* you
 a. a goat b. a coupon c. a trusted friend d. a misleading ad
- _____ 3. A logical *inference* after seeing puddles of water on the street early in the morning
 a. A dust storm hit. b. It rained overnight. c. There's a drought. d. A parrot did it.
- _____ 4. Something that is likely to be a *red herring* during an election campaign
 a. a candidate's hairstyle b. national security c. the economy d. the environment
- _____ 5. A statement that is *indisputable*
 a. All roses are red. b. Weather never changes. c. Sugar is sweet. d. Myths are true.
- _____ 6. Something that a hug *implies*
 a. affection b. gas c. anger d. distrust
- _____ 7. Something an *apologist* would most likely do
 a. support a view b. give up c. tell a joke d. not care
- _____ 8. An example of a *fallacy*
 a. Whales are fish. b. Ice is a solid. c. $4 = 4$ d. The earth rotates.
- _____ 9. An example that *refutes* the statement "All fruits have edible peels."
 a. apples b. grapes c. bananas d. pears
- _____ 10. Something that would most likely *dissuade* a person from driving recklessly
 a. being late b. being angry c. fear of slowness d. witnessing an accident