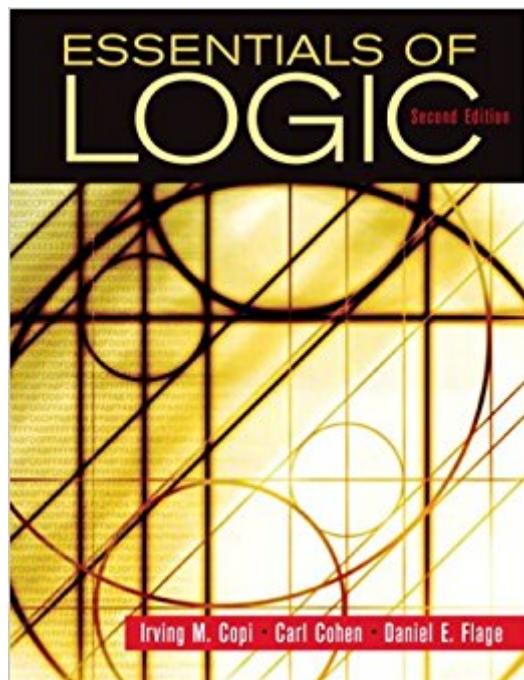


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# Essentials Of Logic



## **Synopsis**

Rendered from the 11th Edition of Copi/Cohen, Introduction to Logic, the most respected introductory logic book on the market, this concise version presents a simplified yet rigorous introduction to the study of logic. It covers all major topics and approaches, using a three-part organization that outlines specific topics under logic and language, deduction, and induction. For individuals intrigued by the formal study of logic.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"One of the strengths of Copi has always been the number of exercises, and the addition of even more exercises is even better." -Robert Kimball, University of Louisville "I think the examples are the major strong suit of the text. There are plenty of them, many are very entertaining, others are modern and poignant, still others are historically enlightening. Excellent job." -Norman Schultz, Metropolitan State College of Denver

Rendered from the Eleventh Edition of Copi/Cohen, Introduction to Logic, the most respected introductory logic text on the market, Essentials of Logic is a truly concise version that presents a simplified introduction to the study of logic.

very straight forward book for a beginning logic course. I would recommend skipping the first chapter though.

book

Concise and well written, my only gripe with it is that my professor uses a slightly different version so the page numbers he always rattles off in class for homework don't match mine. I looked into this before I bought it but because it's not considered a different edition I had no choice and wanted to save \$50. It was well worth it.

So I took Logic and I found this book to be very helpful. I enjoyed this class so much I decided not to resale this book. I still refer to it from time to time.

it is in black and white and its supposed to be in color had a lot more highlights than expected and some words are hard to read since it looks like it was just printed from a machine with no ink.

The classic Copi text, "Introduction to Logic," is a competent work. "Essentials of Logic," which is supposed to be "a simplified yet rigorous introduction to the study of logic," and which it is claimed is distilled from the Eleventh Edition of the longer book, is neither rigorous nor a distillation of the longer text. The first few chapters aren't all that bad, although accuracy is sometimes sacrificed for brevity. However, by the time the text reaches Chapter 7 ("The Method of Deduction") and Chapter 8 ("Quantification Theory"), the material is covered so briefly as to leave the typical student clueless as to what is going on. Having taught logic for 20 years, my experience is that this is where most students will get lost, even when they have an excellent text available. "Essentials of Logic" is so brief at this point (particularly in Chapter 8) as to be almost useless. Given that the price of this book is in the \$100 range, I cannot think of a single reason to adopt this text for a class or purchase it for any reason.

The classic Copi text, "Introduction to Logic," is a competent work, although there are better ones available. (Hurley's is one that comes to mind.) "Essentials of Logic," which is billed as "a simplified yet rigorous introduction to the study of logic," and which is supposedly distilled from the Eleventh Edition of the longer book, is neither rigorous nor a distillation of the longer text. The first few chapters aren't really that bad, although at times accuracy is sacrificed for brevity. However, by the time the text reaches Chapter 7 ("The Method of Deduction") and Chapter 8 ("Quantification Theory"), the material is covered so briefly as to leave the typical student clueless as to what is going on. Having taught logic at the college level for nearly 20 years, I can say with some

confidence that this is where most students are going to get lost, even when they have an excellent text available. "Essentials of Logic" is so brief at this point (particularly in Chapter 8) as to be almost useless. An instructor working with the text is going to have to do almost all the explaining himself or herself. (Which renders the text superfluous except for the exercises it contains.) Given that the price of this book is in the \$100 range (there are some decent logic texts that retail in that range), I cannot think of a single reason to adopt this text for a class or purchase it for any reason. Therefore, I cannot recommend it.

I wish I had time to write a full review, because folks should really know what they are buying when they buy this book. Or at least they should know what they are *\*not\** buying. They are *\*not\** buying a distilled version of the classic Copi and Cohen text. This book has some really unfortunate errors in it. Some are just typos, others are mistakes, but by far the most offensive are the philosophical errors. The philosophical errors are found in material that has been added to or completely reworked from the original C&C text. I'll just give a couple examples (then I'll go try to prepare for tomorrow's class in which I'll need to correct the errors in this book without completely undermining it and myself):  
1. On page 59, it is claimed that arguments that beg the question are always valid, but they are also *\*unsound\** "unless the premise is already known to be true". Of course this weird epistemic notion of soundness isn't the usual one, and isn't the one that appears earlier in the book. It doesn't matter for soundness if you *\*know\** that the premises are true, what matters is if they *\*are\** true. So arguments that beg the question can be sound even if we don't know the premise(s) to be true.  
2. Exercise 5 on page 61 asks the student to identify the fallacy of presumption in the following: "This computer game has lots of fighting in it. You'll like it." The solution in the back of the book for this exercise says, "Converse accident. The generalization that most people like fighting and adventure-packed computer games is a hidden premise here and is being applied illegitimately to a case it does not necessarily govern." Forget the fact that the original sentence doesn't obviously commit *\*any\** fallacy (this is actually a problem with many of the new examples in the text). The solution in the back of the book accuses it of converse accident, but the justification given for this accusation really would have it as *\*accident\** not *\*converse accident\**. (Accident is when "a generalization is applied to individual cases that it does not govern" [p. 61].) Imagine how confused students get checking their answers in the back of the book.  
3. On the bottom of page 82 and the top of page 83, two charts are given to help summarize information about the distribution of terms in categorical propositions. Of course the two charts don't agree. One has S distributed in "All S are P"

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