



Reading Skill: Identifying facts and opinions

Learn together!

Some questions test your ability to figure out whether a statement is known to be true or just a thought of someone. There are two steps to answering such questions:

- 1** Underline the keywords in the question and options. Locate the keywords in the text.
- 2** Highlight the words that are used to state personal opinions to see which parts of the text are the writer's ideas or beliefs in something.

Learn more!

We can tell whether a statement of fact is true or false. However, we cannot do the same for a statement of opinion. Below are words or expressions that are commonly used to express opinions.

- e.g.
- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| I think... | I feel... | In my opinion, ... | Personally, ... |
| I believe... | I guess... | From my perspective, ... | To be honest, ... |

Give it a try!

e.g. Which is James Brown's opinion?

- A. In *The Haunted House*, the strange incidents in the new house make the couple mad.
- B. *The Haunted House* is more terrifying than *Spooky Mansion*.
- C. *Spooky Mansion* has better sound effects.
- D. Jennifer Stone has won the Oscar before.

Please note that this question asks you about **what the reviewer thinks**. Option A is about the plot of the film according to what James Brown wrote **in the synopsis**. Therefore, it is not an opinion. Option C is also not an opinion. Although James Brown thinks *Spooky Mansion* is very similar to *The Haunted House* and that the latter has eerie sound effects, he does not mention whether *Spooky Mansion* has better sound effects or not. As for option D, the statement is a **true fact** according to the word 'Oscar-winning' in the film review. Option B is the correct answer. The statement can be considered as **an opinion** because James Brown wrote **in the comments** that *The Haunted House* is **'much scarier'** than *Spooky Mansion*.