

Identifying views and attitudes

Master the reading strategy!



What are views and attitudes?

- general feelings and opinions about a subject

How to identify them?

- pay attention both to what is explicitly stated and to what is left unstated but implied
- note the use of adjectives, which may reveal whether the writer's view on the subject is positive, negative, or neutral

Let's have a closer look!

Look for adjectives and descriptions that express subjective ideas. How would you describe the writer's choice of words?

Raccoons are loved for their adorable appearance and their childish behaviour. Recently, a viral online video has gained these playful pals millions of fans. In the clip, a raccoon washes a piece of cotton candy before eating it, but ends up seeing its treat dissolve in the water. Though praised by most netizens for its 'dedication to personal hygiene', raccoons are in fact barely welcome in residential districts, as their **disturbing** habits, like stealing and rooting through trash, are a major **headache** for many local residents. If you ask me whether I would like to see them in my garden, I'd say **the farther, the better**.

Which of the following thoughts is mostly likely to be the writer's?

- A. 'Raccoons are so adorable!' (Raccoons are adorable to many people, but not to the writer.)
- B. 'Raccoons can be big trouble.' (Raccoons' behaviour is described disapprovingly.)
- C. 'Raccoons' sense of hygiene amazed me!' (It is most netizens' opinion, not the writer's.)
- D. 'I remain neutral on whether to adopt raccoons.' (His words are far from neutral.)

Let's practise!

Many parents nowadays are concerned that their children's texting habits, such as the use of abbreviations, would make them less literate and incapable of expressing ideas articulately in speech and in writing. According to Dr David Li, a professor at the University of Greenpage, abbreviation users are more likely to be poor spellers. However, Dr Julia Wilson, a senior consultant at Children's Speech Therapy Centre, claimed that texting does not really correlate with low literacy levels, and that arguments suggesting otherwise are often ill-supported.

Match each of the following quotes with its most likely speaker.

A. Dr David Li

B. A father

C. Dr Julia Wilson

- (i) 'Some parents might have overreacted. Texting is in fact not that harmful.'
- (ii) 'I've seen students write '4', instead of 'for', in academic writing.'
- (iii) 'What worries me is that Jessie seldom puts what she thinks into words.'

