

# Distinguishing facts from opinions

Master the reading strategy!



## What are facts?

- pieces of information that must be true according to other given information
- usually supported by or based on reliable sources, such as studies, research and observations

## What are opinions?

- a particular person's or group's judgments on a subject
- can be true or false
- usually based on personal feelings, unexamined beliefs or faulty generalisations from experiences

## Let's have a closer look!

Dear Diary,

Christmas is coming. My family has been planning a holiday trip for quite some time.

Among all the countries we want to visit, Japan is my first choice. Unlike Hong Kong, most parts of Japan are snowy in winter. Wouldn't Christmas be much more festive with snow everywhere? I've been craving a white Christmas for years on end! However, Mum said that a flight to Japan could be exorbitant during the Christmas holidays. Now, we have yet to decide where to go. Hopefully, Father Christmas will realise my fantasy...

It is a fact that it snows in Japan in winter.

These are the writer's own opinions about Christmas.

Is the following information a fact or an opinion?

- |   | Fact                             | Opinion                          |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (i) It is more festive to celebrate Christmas in Japan than in Hong Kong.     | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| (ii) In winter, people in many different parts of Japan can witness snowfall. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            |

## Let's practise!

The community centre is hosting its yearly funfair this weekend. There will be a number of activities that the public may join for free. One of the highlights is the drawing competition. Miss Lee, one of the staff members in charge of the annual event, believes that by drawing scenes of one's community, one can discover things that are usually neglected inadvertently, such as the shifting shapes of clouds and the variety of vegetation in a park, and revel in the exhilaration of discovery. Residents of all ages are welcome to join the funfair. It would be great to spend a relaxing weekend there together with your friends and neighbours!

Is the following information a fact or an opinion?

- |   | Fact                  | Opinion               |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) There will be a funfair this coming Saturday and Sunday.              | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (ii) The drawing competition will be the funfair's most popular activity. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (iii) Everyone can take part in the annual event.                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |