

Distinguishing facts from opinions

Master the reading strategy!



Facts	Opinions
Statements that can be proven to be true	Writers' thoughts, feelings, suggestions or criticisms
Based on observation, research or measurement	Based on perception, personal views or experiences
Objective	Subjective
Universally true for everyone	Differ from person to person
Stated with unbiased words	Stated with biased words

Let's have a closer look!

One's perception of 'blazingly hot' is subjective.

Mia : It's **blazingly hot** today.

David: Indeed. **According to** the Observatory's record, it's 38 degrees Celsius.

Mia : No wonder all the pools are packed! **The malls now must be, if I'm not mistaken, swarming with people dying for air-con!**

David: Hmm... I don't know. But I do know there's a two-storey mall near Oxford Street that is seldom crowded.

The preposition 'according to' is usually indicative of factual information.

Assumptions, like comments, are considered personal and therefore subjective.

Determine whether each of the following statements is a fact, an opinion, or undecidable because not enough information is given.

- | | Fact | Opinion | Not Given |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (i) It is in the middle of the summer holiday. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| (ii) People tend to flock to shopping malls for air-con. | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Let's practise!

A construction worker working near St. Andrew's Cathedral discovered an unexploded World War II bomb on Tuesday afternoon. Upon the discovery, the construction work was halted on the spot and police were called to the scene. For public safety, around 150 residents in the district were evacuated. It was not until the bomb disposal unit successfully defused the bomb that the evacuees were notified that they could return.

Determine whether each of the following statements is a fact, an opinion, or undecidable because not enough information is given.

- | | Fact | Opinion | Not Given |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) The discovery of the bomb terrified the workers. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (ii) The bomb hindered the progress of the construction work. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (iii) What the bomb disposal unit did was professional. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |