

UNIT ONE

1.4. Identifying Fact and Opinion

Fact:

A fact is something that is true or can be proven. A piece of information presented as having objective reality, something that has actual existence.

Example: Four percent of the land mass of the United States is congressionally designated as Wilderness.

Opinion:

An opinion is knowledge based on feelings about a given topic. An opinion refers to a personal belief. It relates to how someone feels about something. Others may agree or disagree with an opinion, but they cannot prove or disprove it. This is what defines it as opinion.

The Language of Fact and Opinion: Signal Words and Phrases

The language used itself often throws up helpful clues in the forms of words and phrases that assist us in identifying statements as fact-based or opinion-based. Let's now take a look at some examples of those signal words and phrases being used in the sentence fragments that often precede a statement of fact or opinion:

Fact

- The annual report ***confirms***...
- Scientists have recently ***discovered***...
- ***According to*** the results of the tests...
- The investigation ***demonstrated***...

Opinion

- He ***claimed*** that...
- It is the officer's ***view*** that...
- The report ***argues*** that...
- Many scientists ***suspect*** that...

As we can see from the above examples, the language used to introduce a statement can be helpful in indicating whether it is being framed as a fact or an opinion.

Task 01:

Directions: Read each statement and then circle whether it is a fact or opinion. Explain your answer.

1. Eating fast food isn't bad if you only eat it once a week.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

2. The chicken sandwiches are more expensive than double cheeseburgers.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

3. Skateboarding on public property is against the law.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

4. Copying homework assignments is wrong.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

5. Students who are caught cheating in college can be kicked out of the university without a refund.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

6. Sometimes curly hair looks better than straight hair.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

7. Each year more people are taken to the hospital for injuries while playing football than basketball.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

8. Justin Bieber is a very talented entertainer.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

9. Cursing in school is inappropriate behavior.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

10. The Sony Playstation 2 is the best selling video game console of all time.

Fact or Opinion Explain:
