

Unit 1 formative activities

Activity 1

Look at the seven topics described briefly below. Which of them would you consider yourself as 'knowing', and which would you consider yourself as having information about?

- a. *A second language in which you are fluent.* - Knowing
- b. *The content of a television news programme.* – Having information about
- c. *A close friend.* - Knowing
- d. *A company's annual report.* – Having information about
- e. *Your close friend's partner whom you have yet to meet.* – Having information about
- f. *The weather on the other side of the world.* – Having information about
- g. *The weather where you are now.* - Knowing

Activity 2

What would you suggest is the primary characteristic that distinguishes the 'having information' situations from the 'knowing' situations you categorised in the previous activity? You will need to make sure that your description does not simply describe information or data but must particularly take account of the former.

Interpretation of data creates information about a certain situation, while accumulation and distillation of information creates knowledge about underlying rules or patterns. While I may have information about the weather on the other side of the world, I do not actually know it – I do not understand its features, and therefore can't for example estimate what it is likely to be like over the next few days. By contrast, I can do this for the weather where I live, because I have enough information accumulated over time to have a reasonable understanding of how it works and how it behaves – i.e. I *know* the weather where I live. The same be can be said about knowing close friends vs having information about a partner of a close friend whom I am yet to meet, and so on.