

Fact and Opinion

- A **statement of fact** can be proved true or false. You can look in a reference book, ask an expert, or use your own knowledge and experience.
- A **statement of opinion** cannot be proved true or false. It is a belief or a judgment. It often contains a word of judgment, such as *best*, *should*, or *beautiful*. It may begin with the words *in my opinion* or *I believe*.

Directions Read the following passage. Read each numbered statement in the boxes. Draw a line from each box to the oval titled “fact” or “opinion.”

The first lumberjack I ever met was named William. He was shopping for a new pair of boots. I pointed to a pair of brown boots in the window. “I don’t like wearing brown boots,” said William.

He bought a pair of black boots instead. William smiled when he put them on. “These are the most beautiful boots in the world,” he said.

FACT

1. The first lumberjack I ever met was named William.

2. He was shopping for a new pair of boots.

3. I don’t like wearing brown boots.

4. He bought a pair of black boots instead.

5. These are the most beautiful boots in the world.

OPINION



Home Activity Your child identified statements of fact and statements of opinion in a short paragraph. Read information on a cereal box with your child. Ask your child to tell you which information is fact and which is opinion and why.

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Directions Read the following passage. Then complete the table. Read each statement and answer the questions at the top of each column.

I am a forester. My job is to take care of forests. Sometimes I recommend cutting trees to keep the forest healthy. If this happens, the loggers' work must follow laws that protect the environment, so the loggers should know these laws. There are other times when I suggest not cutting down trees. I disagree with people who think we should never cut down any trees. I believe we should preserve forests for the future as we use forest resources today.

| Statement | Does it state a fact or an opinion? | If an opinion, what are the clue words? If a fact, how could you prove it? |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| I am a forester. | Fact | Check the person's job. |
| My job is to take care of forests. | 1. | 2. |
| I disagree with people who think we should never cut down any trees. | 3. | 4. |

5. Find one sentence that contains both a statement of fact and a statement of opinion.



Home Activity Your child identified statements of fact and statements of opinion in a short paragraph. Listen to or watch a news program with your child. Ask your child to tell you when he or she hears the news announcer expressing an opinion. Ask your child to explain why it is an opinion rather than a fact.

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Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

Logging is the most dangerous occupation in the United States. Logging is a job that combines dangerous tools with a dangerous environment. Chainsaws are very frightening to use. Everyone should agree about how dangerous it is to be around a sliding and rolling log weighing more than a ton.

Every year, loggers are injured by the equipment they use and by the trees they cut down. Loggers are injured almost twice as often as workers in other industries. To protect loggers, the United States has created many logging-safety laws.

1. Is the third sentence a fact or an opinion? How can you tell?

2. Is the fourth sentence a fact or an opinion? How can you tell?

3. Is the sixth sentence a fact or an opinion? How can you tell?

4. Is the seventh sentence a fact or an opinion? How can you tell?

5. Why do you think someone would want to have the dangerous job of being a logger? Use at least one fact and one opinion to support your answer.



Home Activity Your child identified statements of fact and opinion in a short paragraph. Read a letter to the editor from the newspaper with your child. Ask your child to tell you when he or she reads an opinion. Ask your child to explain why it is an opinion rather than a fact.