

Fact and Opinion

- A **statement of fact** can be proved true or false by doing research.
- 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. Then complete the table. Read each statement and answer the questions at the top of each column.

In my opinion, dolphins and whales are the best communicators in the animal world. Dolphins and whales make sounds that travel underwater. These sounds are beautiful, almost like music. Animals also communicate in other ways. They use body

language or make faces. But I think the sounds animals make are by far the best way that animals communicate. The next time you hear the special sounds of whales or dolphins, try to imagine what they are saying.

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?
In my opinion, dolphins and whales are the best communicators in the world.	1. _____	2. Best, _____ _____
Dolphins and whales make sounds that travel underwater.	3. _____	4. Do research about _____ _____

5. Write a statement of opinion from the passage. How do you know it is an opinion?



Home Activity Your child identified statements of fact and statements of opinion in a short passage. Talk with your child about places you can research facts to prove they are correct. Give your child two facts to look up. Challenge your child to write a paragraph with the information.

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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.

People and their pets have special relationships. Many people believe that their pets are a part of their families. Some people dress their animals in colorful clothes and buy expensive food for them to eat.

Pets also help people in many ways. For instance, pets can cheer up people who are sick or living alone. Barking dogs protect

people and their homes. In addition, seeing-eye dogs guide their blind owners. These dogs are trained to stop walking if they sense a dangerous situation and to avoid low branches and other obstacles. Whether the animals are companions or trained partners, animal experts feel that it's important to treat them kindly.

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?
Seeing-eye dogs guide their blind owners.	1.	2.
Many people believe that their pets are a part of their family.	3.	4.

5. Write a statement of fact from the passage. How could you prove it?



Home Activity Your child identified statements of fact and statements of opinion in a short passage. Read an article or story about nature with your child. Ask your child to identify the facts and opinions in the article or story.

Name _____

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

Patrick ran to the edge of the stairs and looked at the large chalkboard next to them. It had information about the ocean's tides and the day's weather. Patrick loved knowing what time the tide was going to come in. He knew the tides were caused by the sun and moon pulling the water. Knowing this helped him decide when he would go swimming. The size of the waves always showed how fast the winds

were blowing. Patrick knew if the winds were strong, then the waves would be high. He also knew that the winds might bring colder water to the shore. It looked like the ocean was going to be calm today.

Patrick ran down the stairs to the beach and looked around. The beach was already busy. He saw his friends and headed toward them. Patrick knew it was going to be a great day.

1. Give one example of a fact from the passage.

2. How do you know this is a fact and not an opinion?

3. Give one example of an opinion from the passage.

4. How do you know this is an opinion and not a fact?

5. On a separate sheet of paper, create a graphic organizer showing which sentences from the above passage are facts and which are opinions.

Extra Credit ✪



Home Activity Your child identified facts and opinions in a short passage. Read the promotional material from a book or video to your child. Work together to identify the facts and opinions in the promotion.