

Grades 7, 8 & 9

# BJC Language Arts Tutorials

Fact and Opinion





**Aim:** To understand and identify facts and opinions

- This lesson focuses on fact and opinion.
- It is easy to understand the difference between fact and opinion.
- However, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish opinion from fact.



## FACT

A fact is something that **can be proved to be true.**

- Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world.
- The population of London is greater than the population of Paris.
- The English FA Cup Final is held in May.
- A dolphin is a mammal.

Write down five facts you know to be true.



## OPINION

An opinion is someone's **personal belief**.

- Tea is a much nicer drink than coffee.
- The new Star Wars film is fantastic.
- Vanilla is the best flavour of ice cream.
- Cricket is a better game than football.

Write down five opinions.



## SIMPLE ENOUGH?

Problems can occur when opinions seem to be factual, but actually aren't.

- Mount Everest is the most difficult mountain to climb.
- The summer is the best time of the year.
- Christmas is fun.

All of the above statements are opinions, not facts.



## FACT OR OPINION?

- Germany are the world football champions.
- German football players are the best in the world.
- The Premier League is an English football competition.
- The Premier League is the best league in the world.



## FACT OR OPINION?

- Germany are the world football champions.

**FACT**

- German football players are the best in the world.

**OPINION**

- The Premier League is an English football competition.

**FACT**

- The Premier League is the best league in the world.

**OPINION**



## OPINION PRESENTED AS FACT

If you are trying to persuade someone to agree with your point of view, it can be useful to present opinions as facts:

- Hunting is cruel and barbaric.
- Wearing school uniform reduces bullying.
- Smacking children teaches them discipline.

Can you think of five opinions similar to those above and present them as if they are facts?



## Task: To identify fact from opinion

*Read the passage below, pause the video and identify three facts and three opinions.*

Arsenal beat Manchester United 2-1 yesterday afternoon. Arsenal scored the winning goal in injury time after they were awarded a controversial penalty by the referee. The out-of-form striker Olivier Giroud was lucky when his spot kick hit the inside of the post but rebounded into the back of the net. Arsenal have now won three consecutive games.



## Facts

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## Opinions

Arsenal beat Manchester United 2-1 yesterday afternoon. Arsenal scored the winning goal in injury time after they were awarded a controversial penalty by the referee. The out-of-form striker Olivier Giroud was lucky when his spot kick hit the inside of the post but rebounded into the back of the net. Arsenal have now won three consecutive games.



## Reading non-fiction texts

Non-fiction texts such as newspaper and magazine articles tend to mix facts and opinions together so it can be difficult to identify fact from opinion.

Look carefully for evidence that opinions are being presented as facts - can what is said be proved to be true **BEYOND DOUBT**? If not, it is an opinion.

Opinions reflect a writer's **BIAS**, which is when they are favourable to one particular point of view or idea. For example, an Arsenal supporter is going to be **BIASED** towards their team and therefore may not provide a balanced account when discussing games that feature Arsenal.



**Task:** To write a non-fiction text including fact and opinion

*You are going to write a non-fiction piece, incorporating as many facts and opinions as you can. Choose from the following list:*

- *A football match report*
- *A review of a new film released in cinemas*
- *A review of a novel you have read*
- *A review of a television programme*
- *A newspaper report on a topic of your choice*



For more help  
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