

Fact vs Opinion EXAMPLE

Aim: To guide students in their critical reading skills and academic writing ability by helping them understand the difference between fact and opinion.

Time: 60 minutes & homework task.

Delivery: This lesson can be delivered face-to-face or online. For online delivery, each worksheet could be placed in a class document on OneDrive or OneNote.

Lead in

- Distribute or project **worksheet 1**. Students complete **task 1**: discussion.
- Feedback¹: nominate students to answer.
- Feedback²: distribute or project your **assessment criteria** if you have one. Point out where 'fact and opinion' is assessed (Reading test/Writing essays; use of evidence, development of ideas etc.).

Guided Practice

- Distribute or project **worksheet 2**. Students complete **task 1**: identify facts & opinions.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 2 task 1 ANSWERS**.
- Students complete **task 2**: paragraph analysis.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 2 task 2 ANSWERS**.
- Distribute or project **worksheet 3**. Students read the language focus.
- Students complete **task 1**: matching evidence to facts.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 3 task 1 ANSWERS**.
- Distribute or project **worksheet 4**. Students complete **task 1**: write a paragraph using the given facts.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 4 task 1 MODEL ANSWER**.
- Students complete **task 2**: identifying the opinion language in the model answer.
- Students complete **task 3**: completing a table with the opinion language identified.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 4 tasks 1&2 ANSWERS**.

Freer Practice

- Distribute or project **worksheet 5**. Students complete **task 1**: writing a paragraph using fact and opinion.
- Feedback¹: students do peer feedback. Use the included **checklist (task 2)**.
- Feedback²: distribute or project **worksheet 5 task 1 SUGGESTED ANSWER (task 3)**.

Homework

- Students find an article related to their area of study. They choose a section and highlight the facts and opinions. They identify how the facts have been supported and the language used for stating opinions.
- Students choose a topic connected to their studies and write a paragraph using fact and opinion.
- Teachers take in and mark. Use our error correction code. <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/correction-code>

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Fact vs Opinion

Worksheet 1: Reading Critically

Task 1

- Answer the questions about fact and opinion, and then compare with a partner.
- i. When reading, how can you tell whether a statement is a fact or an opinion?

 - ii. What makes _____ so difficult?

 - iii. If you are unsure if a statement is a fact, what _____?

 - iv. Why _____ between facts and opinions?

 - v. How will your understanding of _____ you're currently on?

Task 2

- Read the following information on fact and opinion, then tell your partner what you understand in your own words.

Fact	Opinion
An objective statement that is supported with evidence and can be proven to be true or false.	A subjective statement that expresses a person's feelings, attitudes or beliefs. These cannot be proven to be true or false.
A _____ is true. There is no argument.	A _____. There could be argument and disagreement.
Facts may contain words like <i>discover</i> , _____ and <i>statistics</i> .	Opinions contain descriptive words like <i>always</i> , _____ <i>argue</i> .
<i>E.g. Most mathematical symbols were not _____, equations were written in words.</i>	<i>E.g. Studying _____ prepares you for studying mathematics at university.</i>

Critical reading is about being able to distinguish between facts and opinions.

- Question what you have read.
- _____
- Be aware of the writer's purpose.
- _____
- Ask yourself if the opinions are supported by facts.

Worksheet 2: Reading Critically

Task 1

- Work in small groups to identify which of the following sentences are facts and which are opinions.

	Statement	Fact or Opinion
i.	Dave Asprey's 'upgrade labs' help you to achieve peak performance, improve cognition and enhance longevity.	
ii.	The [redacted]. That's why there are no zeros in Roman numerals.	
iii.	Earth [redacted] with a radius of almost 4,000 miles.	
iv.	Knowledge of [redacted] people who wish to study quantum mechanics.	
v.	Certain [redacted] by helping the body to burn more calories.	
vi.	Copper is the only naturally antibacterial metal.	
vii.	Anorexia [redacted] to treat.	
viii.	A Boeing [redacted] parts.	
ix.	2020 [redacted] owing to a rise of 0.98°C above average.	
x.	Birds will not [redacted] ability to migrate to more suitable habitats.	

Task 2

- Read the paragraph on paleo diet and decide if each statement is a fact or an opinion. What helped you decide? Compare with your group.

The Paleo Diet

The Paleo diet first gained popularity approximately 10 years ago after research undertaken by Dr Cordain to discover the optimal human dietⁱ. The diet [redacted], [redacted] and seedsⁱⁱ. Health experts consider it to be high in protein and fibre and low in carbohydrates and sugars, [redacted] as the 'Stone Age' diet as it aims to mimic what was eaten during the Paleolithic eraⁱⁱⁱ (The Nutrition Source, 2019). [redacted] processed foods for leaner cuts of meat and fresher portions of fish, the lack of vitamins, [redacted] not [redacted], is concerning^{iv}.

	Fact or Opinion	How did you know?
i.		
ii.		
iii.		
iv.		

Worksheet 3: Academic Writing

Language focus

- Academic writing needs to illustrate both facts and opinions:
 - i. Use facts to support opinions.
 - ii. Use evidence to substantiate unknown facts.
- You can do this by:
 - i. Using statistics.
Including a figure or number to clearly illustrate the point made.
Adoption [redacted] predicted. Only 11% of all UK households own some kind of smart home technology (Ofcom, 2020).
 - ii. Using examples.
Including an example to further explain the point made in a given context.
There [redacted] on the Red Planet as part of The Mars Exploration Program. In particular, the most recent mission, The Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover [redacted] (NASA, 2021).
 - iii. Using expert opinion.
Including a [redacted] was made.
The coronavirus pandemic has had a detrimental impact [redacted] [redacted] that millions of single-use facemasks, gloves and aprons are discarded every day around the world.

Task 1

- Match the facts with their evidence, then compare with your group.

	Fact		Evidence
i.	The number of IoT (Internet of Things) devices is growing rapidly.	a	Biophysical chemists will predict virus sequences, atmospheric chemists will design masks and synthetic chemists will work on protease inhibitors (Dong, 2020).
ii.	[redacted] on the market.	b	Cooper (2019) claims that the number in [redacted] by 2030.
iii.	2021 will witness a rise in interdisciplinary [redacted] preventing pandemics.	c	According to Vailshery (2021), there were [redacted] figure is expected to rise to 50 billion by 2030.
iv.	More [redacted] becoming extinct.	d	For example, approximately 60% of the [redacted] can be found within Latin America and the Caribbean alone (UNEP, 2016).
v.	The [redacted] the largest amount of biodiversity.	e	[redacted] i Bitcoin, which launched in 2009 (Yellin, 2018).
vi.	[redacted] several jobs within the next 10 years.	f	WWF (2020) report that the number [redacted] 70% since 1970.

i.		ii.		iii.		iv.		v.		vi.	
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Worksheet 4: Academic Writing

Task 1

- Write a paragraph on fracking. Use the facts given in the box. When you've finished, compare with a partner and then ask your teacher for the suggested answer.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hydraulic fracturing is [redacted] impermeable, sedimentary rock through the release of water, chemicals and sand into the rock at a very [redacted].• Scotland, Wales and England have [redacted] to cause earthquakes (Greenpeace, 2019).• The US is considered [redacted] the world in most part [redacted] over two-thirds of its oil and gas wells are fracked (NRDC, 2019).

Write your paragraph here...

Task 2

- Look at the suggested answer again and highlight the opinions. Compare with your partner when you've finished.

Task 3

- Complete the table with the opinion language from the previous task.

	Type of opinion	Example
i.	Evaluation	
ii.	[redacted]	
iii.	Use of modal verbs	
iv.	[redacted]	

Worksheet 5: Freer Practice

Task 1

- You're going to write a paragraph with a partner on the [redacted]. Spend 10 minutes planning and then try and write between 50-100 words. Include fact and opinion.

Write your paragraph here...

Task 2

Peer feedback

- Swap your paragraph with another pair for some feedback. Use the checklist to help you with your analysis.

Have your partners...	Yes / No / Not Sure
Written a well-organised paragraph?	
Included [redacted] ?	
Supported the [redacted] opinion?	
Included their opinion?	
Used [redacted] ?	

Task 3

- Compare your paragraph with the model answer. What would you do differently next time?

Next time I would....

Homework

- Find an article related to your area of study. Choose a section. Read through and highlight the [redacted] ? What [redacted] the opinions?
- Select a topic from your [redacted] using fact and opinion.

Fact & Opinion ANSWER KEY

Worksheet 1

Task 1

- i. When reading, how can you tell whether a statement is a fact or an opinion?

Facts can be proven easily and will be unchanged wherever you look. Opinions may differ across different sources and will contain descriptive words.

- ii. What makes distinguishing between facts and opinions so difficult?

Opinions are sometimes written as facts especially when the writer wants to be persuasive.

ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...