

Fact and Opinion

To be a good reader, you should be able to tell the difference between a **fact** and an **opinion**. Figuring out facts from opinions is something you do already. You may do it without even knowing it. Below are some definitions and examples of facts and opinions. They will help you tell the difference between facts and opinions.

Fact -A **fact** is a statement that you can check or prove with evidence (proof). This evidence may be in what someone says, something you see, or something written in a book or text. In other words, a **fact** is something that can be proved. **Facts** are usually found in newspapers, textbooks, and news shows on television.

Examples:

Ronald Reagan was the 40th president of the United States.

The sun is 93 million miles away from Earth.

A square has four sides.

The restaurant's hours are nine to five.

***Heather thinks that the best team in the NBA is the Dallas Mavericks.*

Opinion An **opinion** is a statement that cannot be proven true or false. **Opinions** are -what people believe, feel, or decide about something. An **opinion** cannot be proven right or wrong. Opinions are usually found in editorials, letters to the editor, and in debates.

Examples:

Ronald Reagan was one of the best presidents the United States has ever had.

That movie was cool!

Computers are confusing.

Blue is the prettiest color.

The book was great.

People should not use cell phones when driving.

***Dallas has the best team in the NBA.*

***Some people get confused about these types of statements. You could ask Heather if she likes the Mavericks, and she could tell you it's a fact that she likes them. You could prove that she likes the Mavericks just by asking her. In other words, it is a **fact** that Heather has an opinion about the Mavericks. If she said, "Dallas has the best team in the NBA," it would be an **opinion**.*