

FACT AND OPINION

Level 1 Reading: identify meanings in texts and distinguish between facts and opinions.

1. What is a fact?

A fact is something that can be checked or proved. It is based on evidence, not personal feelings.

Examples
The lesson starts at 9:30 am.
The course has 18 learners.
Water boils at 100°C.

Facts often include dates, times, numbers, places, names, statistics or information that you can check.

2. What is an opinion?

An opinion is what someone thinks, feels or believes. It may be strongly stated, but it cannot be proved in the same way as a fact.

Examples
This is the best course.
The canteen food is delicious.
Online learning is better than classroom learning.

Opinions often use words such as: best, worst, better, delicious, boring, excellent, terrible, I think, I believe, should and must.

3. Level 1 exam strategy

Step 1: Read the sentence carefully.
Step 2: Ask: Can I prove or check this?
Step 3: Look for clues: numbers/dates = often facts; judgement words = often opinions.
Step 4: Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

Important: a fact can support an opinion. For example, "The club has 300 members" is a fact. "The club is very popular" is an opinion, but the fact helps support it.

4. Fact and opinion in a text

Short text
The new community gym opened on Monday. It has 20 exercise machines and two fitness rooms. Many local people think it is the best place to exercise because the staff are friendly and the classes are fun.

Exam thinking
Facts: opened on Monday; 20 machines; two rooms.
Opinions: best place to exercise; friendly staff; fun classes.

5. Useful answer sentence frames

- This is a fact because it can be checked.
- This is an opinion because it shows what someone thinks or feels.
- The word "best" shows this is an opinion.
- The number/date/place in the sentence helps to show it is a fact.

6. Exam checklist

Before you answer: 1. Read the question carefully. 2. Find the sentence or phrase in the text. 3. Decide if it can be checked or if it shows a view. 4. Use a short explanation, not a long story.	Good Level 1 answer: This is an opinion because the word "best" shows a judgement. It cannot be proved and other readers may disagree.
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7. Mini practice

Sentence	Fact or opinion?	Why?
The centre opens at 8 am.	Fact	The time can be checked.
The centre is the best place to study.	Opinion	The word "best" shows a judgement.

Quick reminder: facts are used to give information; opinions are used to show viewpoints. In the exam, always use evidence from the text.