

Homework Help

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Grades 2-5: Fact vs. Opinion

Being able to tell a fact from an opinion is an important **reading skill**. Being able to tell the difference also helps with writing because **writing often involves using facts to support your opinion**.

The chart below helps show **how facts and opinions differ**.

Fact	Opinion
Something people know is true	Something people feel or believe
Something that science has tested and proven	Something that needs facts to back it up
Something people don't disagree or argue about	Something that people may disagree or argue about

What are some examples? Key words that help show which is a fact and which is an opinion are underlined.

Fact	Opinion
It is <u>78 degrees Fahrenheit</u> in this room right now.	Tucson weather in the winter is <u>wonderful</u> .
The American Civil War began <u>in 1861</u> .	The American Civil War was <u>the worst</u> tragedy in history.
<u>Almost half</u> of dogs in the U.S. sleep in their owners' beds.	Letting your dog sleep in your bed is <u>a great idea</u> .

- **Facts sometimes include numbers, but not always.** For example, another **fact** is: **The earth orbits around the sun**. Even though this fact doesn't include a number, it is **something science has proven** and **not something that people argue about** (although they did a few hundred years ago!)
- **Opinions often include words that have to do with judging something as good or bad.** Also, sometimes people **use the word "should" to state their opinion** as in, **"Everyone should own a dog."** This isn't a fact; it's **an opinion**.

For more on this topic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwdDCIWP6i4>