

Fact or opinion

Fact is the truth: something there is evidence for
Opinion is what something thinks or feels

Which statement is fact and which is opinion?

“I think the new trainer store in town will be really popular.”



“Kickgame has confirmed they are opening a new store on Eastgate Road in six weeks’ time.”



Use this simple example to model the difference between fact and opinion. Can students identify which statement is fact and which is opinion? Were there any specific words that helped them to decide? (Eg ‘think’, ‘confirmed’.)

Photos top to bottom:

Marcos Rivas via Unsplash

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Language cues



Fact

It has been **confirmed** that...

It has been **proven** that...

She **stated** that...

Language cues can help us identify opinion or factual statements. These language cues show something is a fact.

Language cues

I **feel** that...

They **believe** ...

She **thinks** ...



Opinion

Language cues can help us identify opinion or factual statements. These language cues show something is an opinion.



Photo: Ben Birchall/PA

Statue of slave trader pulled down by protestors

Introduce the Edward Colston statue story and the accompanying Edward Colston statue toppled sheet. Read this with students using the glossary sheet to support complex language.

Photo: Ben Birchall/PA

What is the story about?



Recap/ summarise verbally the events of the story to ensure students understand.

Photo: Ben Birchall/PA

Photo: Mr Standfast/Alamy

Can you sort these tweets?

Fact or opinion?



@HenryBolton: I think those four vandals will encourage others to do the same.

@BBCnews: We can confirm four people have been charged with criminal damage.

Share the tweets about the Edward Colston statue news story on the slides and/or the printable version with students. Can the students cut up and sort, or verbally sort, these into fact and opinion? Printable language cues sheet available to use as a prompt to help them.

Can you sort these tweets?

Fact or opinion?



@MrP: I believe it is a very positive step that the statue has been pulled down.

@SkyNewsBreak: Bristol City Council state the statue will now be moved to a museum.

Share the tweets about the Edward Colston statue news story on the slides and/or the printable version with students. Can the students cut up and sort, or verbally sort, these into fact and opinion? Printable language cues sheet available to use as a prompt to help them.

Your task

Write a radio broadcast about this story including only the facts.



Prepare and record a radio broadcast news headline and summary of this story stating the facts only. The teacher could scribe or students could use software such as Clicker or InPrint to provide support with composing and writing. Students can also use the radio broadcast sheet as a scaffold.

Photos left to right:

Leo Wieling via Unsplash

Jacob Hodgson via Unsplash

Learning Check

1. Football is the best sport.
Football is the most popular sport in England.

Which is fact and which is opinion?

2. Explain the difference between fact and opinion.

What have you learnt?



Fact



Opinion

- *What is an opinion?*
- *What is fact?*
- *Can students give an example of a fact and an opinion?*

Discuss why it's important to know the difference between fact and opinion.

- *How can we check whether something is factual?*
- *Why is it important that journalists reporting the news only report the facts?*

What did students like about this activity?

News. **WISE** Behind the Headlines

theguardianfoundation.org

For more media literacy resources from Behind the Headlines and Newswise, visit
<https://theguardianfoundation.org/>.