

# FACT AND OPINION

A **fact** is a statement that can be proven to be true by the use of evidence. This means that facts are fully true in all cases and for all people.

- Humans are mammals
- Asia is the largest continent in the world
- World War II began in 1939
- Earth, Saturn, and Neptune are planets

Each of these statements is verifiably true. In other words, evidence exists that could prove each claim.

When something is factual, it is known as being **objective**.

On the other hand, an **opinion** is a statement that is not necessarily true or false; it can express a belief, attitude, value, judgment, or feeling.

Each of these statements is debatable; one can agree or disagree with each statement.

When something is debatable, it is known as being **subjective**.

- Humans are the best mammals in existence
- Asia is the most interesting continent in the world
- World War II was a terrible war
- Earth is the most beautiful planet in the solar system

When trying to distinguish opinion from fact, be on the lookout for certain signal words that will often accompany an opinion:

- Always
- Bad
- Beautiful
- Best
- Disgusting
- Favorite
- Good
- Great
- Horrible
- Lovely
- Most
- Must
- Never
- Pretty
- Should
- Strangest
- Terrible
- Ugly
- Unfair
- Wonderful
- Worst
- Worthwhile

