

What are Inference Skills in Reading?

Worksheet

Inference is drawing a logical conclusion from evidence in the text without the idea being explicitly stated. Inference skills allow readers to understand unstated meaning, predict outcomes, and grasp the author's implicit intent.

Questions

1. Text: 'His hands shook as he opened the envelope. Inside was a single line: "Congratulations."' What is implied?

- A) He was sad
- B) He was nervous but relieved by good news
- C) He did not want the envelope
- D) Envelopes always make people shake

2. Which of these is an inference, not a fact? Text: 'Maya studied 5 hours a day.'

- A) Maya studied
- B) Maya studied 5 hours
- C) Maya was a dedicated student
- D) The study lasted all day

3. What is the most important rule for making inferences?

- A) Guess based on what you know
- B) Use only textual clues, not outside knowledge
- C) Choose the most positive interpretation
- D) Ignore details

4. Text: 'The office was dark. Papers cluttered every surface. No one had entered it in weeks.' What is NOT a valid inference?

- A) The office is not in regular use
- B) The office owner is absent
- C) The office is in a tall building
- D) Maintenance is not a priority

5. Text: 'The shop was closed. All the lights were off. A sign on the door said "Sorry, we are not here today." Sarah stood outside, staring at the sign for a full minute.' What can you infer about Sarah?

6. Text: 'The team had trained for months. Every player looked nervous before the final match. But after the whistle blew, they moved with perfect precision.' What does this suggest about their preparation?

7. Text: 'By age five, Amara could read novels. At ten, she had published three short stories. Now, at fifteen, she was already researching universities.' What can you infer?

8. Define: What is an inference?

9. Define: How is inference different from a fact?

10. Define: Can inferences be wrong?

Answer Key

1. B) He was nervous but relieved by good news — Shaking hands suggest nervousness. The word 'Congratulations' implies good news. Combined, he was anxiously awaiting good news.
2. C) Maya was a dedicated student — 'Dedicated' is a value judgment inferred from the fact that she studied 5 hours. The other options are directly stated.
3. B) Use only textual clues, not outside knowledge — Inferences must be grounded in textual evidence, not assumptions or general knowledge.
4. C) The office is in a tall building — Nothing in the text mentions building height. The others are supported by textual clues.
5. Explicit clues: shop closed, lights off, she stared at the sign What is implied? Sarah wanted to enter but couldn't Inference: Sarah is disappointed or frustrated
6. Explicit: months of training, nervousness, precise performance What is implied? Their training was effective Inference: Hard work leads to confident performance
7. Explicit: early reading, published by age 10, researching universities at 15 Pattern shows? Rapid development in academics Inference: Amara is academically gifted and ambitious
8. A logical conclusion drawn from textual clues without the idea being directly stated.
9. A fact is explicitly stated. An inference is something you deduce from the facts.
10. Yes. Inferences must be based on strong textual evidence, not assumptions.

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