

Functional Skills English Entry 3 | Fact and Opinion  
**Fact and Opinion**

Functional Skills English Entry 3 - Handout

**What is a fact? What is an opinion?**

| <b>Fact</b>                                                         | <b>Opinion</b>                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Can be checked or proved.                                           | Shows what someone thinks, feels or believes.     |
| Often uses evidence such as dates, times, numbers, names or places. | Often uses feelings, judgement or personal views. |
| Usually stays the same whoever checks it.                           | Different people can have different opinions.     |
| Example: The bus leaves at 8:15.                                    | Example: The bus journey is too long.             |

**Useful clues**

| <b>Facts often include:</b>                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Opinions often include:</b>                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• dates and times</li><li>• numbers or measurements</li><li>• names of people or places</li><li>• information you can check</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I think / I believe</li><li>• best, worst, nice, boring</li><li>• should / must / need to</li><li>• feelings or personal views</li></ul> |

**3-step exam strategy**

- 1. Read the whole sentence or short text carefully.
- 2. Ask: "Can I prove or check this?"
- 3. Look for evidence: numbers, dates and names often suggest facts; judgement or feeling words often suggest opinions.

**Quick examples**

| <b>Sentence</b>                     | <b>Fact or opinion?</b> | <b>Why?</b>                      |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| The café opened on Monday at 10 am. | Fact                    | The day and time can be checked. |
| The coffee costs £1.50.             | Fact                    | The price can be checked.        |

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|                                                |         |                                          |
|------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------|
| The cakes are too expensive.                   | Opinion | “Too expensive” is a personal judgement. |
| The café is the best new place in the college. | Opinion | “Best” shows a personal view.            |