

# INFERENCE

SESSION 1

What is inference?



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zs44jxs/articles/zqmyw6f>

## Making Inferences Not Predictions

Prediction - part of inferring  
can check your accuracy as you read  
can find if you were right or wrong

Inference - more precise  
reading between the lines  
comes from you  
filling in (in your head) what has not  
been written on the page

## Ways to begin:

- The story said \_\_\_\_\_ which made me think...
- When I read \_\_\_\_\_ it made me realise...
- I can tell \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ because...
- How the character acts tells me...
- How the character feels tells me...
- What the character says tells me...

## Activity 1

To answer **inference** questions, you have to examine the **whole** scene.

Look at the pictures of the girl.

Answer the questions about what you can infer about what has happened.

Write your answers down on paper or discuss them with a friend or family member.

1. How was the girl feeling in the first picture? How can you tell?
2. Why do you think the girl was feeling that way?
3. How was the girl feeling in the second picture? How can you tell?
4. Why do you think the girl was feeling that way?
5. What could have happened to make her drop her ice cream?





Sometimes you will have to work out what is meant in a text. The technical term for this is **inference**, although it is also referred to as 'reading between the lines'. This is where you will need to look for what is suggested, rather than just what is being stated clearly or obviously. Detective skills are required.

Depending on what you are reading, you will find different things inferred. It could be:

- a general fact or a precise piece of information
- emotions and feelings
- the author's opinions or feelings

To infer successfully there are a number of things you should do.

For example:

- Look for clues or references in the text.
- Think about the connotations of words used in the text.
- Match something in the text to your own understanding, experience or knowledge.

Read this extract:

'In hoarse whispers they filled each other in on the day's events. Arthur's eyes widened at the news that Lucilla was planning to kill her uncle, and Finn's jaw tightened when he heard that Lucius intended to make Arthur fight in the amphitheatre.'

Now let's think about what we can infer...

What can we infer from the underlined phrases?

'In hoarse whispers they filled each other in on the day's events. Arthur's eyes widened at the news that Lucilla was planning to kill her uncle, and Finn's jaw tightened when he heard that Lucius intended to make Arthur fight in the amphitheatre.'

When I read that Arthur's eyes widened it makes me think that he was shocked by the news Finn shared. It is how we look when we are surprised too and that means he wasn't expecting this information.



What can we infer from the underlined phrase?

'In hoarse whispers they filled each other in on the day's events. Arthur's eyes widened at the news that Lucilla was planning to kill her uncle, and Finn's jaw tightened when he heard that Lucius intended to make Arthur fight in the amphitheatre.'



What can we infer from the underlined phrase?

*'In hoarse whispers they filled each other in on the day's events. Arthur's eyes widened at the news that Lucilla was planning to kill her uncle, and Finn's jaw tightened when he heard that Lucius intended to make Arthur fight in the amphitheatre.'*

*hoarse* - sounding rough and harsh