

Comprehension Worksheet 2: Gr 4-6

Make inferences and draw conclusions

Drawing conclusions refers to information that is implied or inferred. This means that the information is never clearly stated.

Writers often tell you more than they say directly. They give you hints or clues that help you "read between the lines." Using these clues to give you a deeper understanding of your reading is called inferring. When you infer, you go beyond the surface details to see other meanings that the details suggest or imply (not stated). When the meanings of words are not stated clearly in the context of the text, they may be implied - that is, suggested or hinted at. When meanings are implied, you may infer them.

Inference is just a big word that means a conclusion or judgement. If you infer that something has happened, you do not see, hear, feel, smell, or taste the actual event. But from what you know, it makes sense to think that it has happened. You make inferences everyday. Most of the time you do so without thinking about it. Suppose you are sitting in your car waiting at a red signal light.

You hear screeching tires, then a loud crash and breaking glass. You see nothing, but you infer that there has been a car accident. We all know the sounds of screeching tires and a crash. We know that these sounds almost always mean a car accident. But there could be some other reason, and therefore another explanation, for the sounds. Perhaps it was not an accident involving two moving vehicles. Maybe an angry driver rammed a parked car. Or maybe someone played the sound of a car crash from a recording. Making inferences means choosing the most likely explanation from the facts at hand.

In drawing conclusions (making inferences), you are really getting at the ultimate meaning of things - what is important, why it is important, how one event influences another, how one happening leads to another. Simply getting the facts in reading is not enough - you must think about what those facts mean to you.



You can infer and draw conclusions in text, but also from photographs! Look at the photographs and complete the questions.



1. What is going on in this picture?

2. What do you think happened right before the picture was taken?

3. What do think is going to happen next?

Read the following passage. Look at the questions below. There can be more than one answer!

Manners

All over the world mothers and fathers teach their children manners. In many parts of the world children are taught different manners to ours. Those children do not have manners like you have. Theirs are different and there are all kinds of manners. Many years ago, children who had good manners were seen and not heard. They kept quiet when grownups were talking. Today well-mannered children have more freedom. Sometimes, what you may consider good manners may not be considered good manners in other countries or cultures.

1. The author seems to imply that...
 - a. Manners have changed
 - b. Manners should stay the same
 - c. Manners is a personal choice
 - d. Manners has to do with culture
2. According to the passage we can infer that...
3. Is there any further information that you know about manners that the author could have used to further describe his ideas about manners?