

Lesson 2 Facts and Opinions

Which of the following sentences is a fact? Which is an opinion? If you are not sure, ask yourself these questions: Which statement could be proven true? That would be a **fact**. Which is a belief or a personal judgment? That would be an **opinion**.



Our school cafeteria serves lunch to 448 children each day.

Our school cafeteria serves the best food in the school district.

Often, writers state both facts and opinions. That is okay, but readers must be sure to distinguish between the two. Look for facts and opinions as you read Ms. Whitaker's article again.

Recess Before Lunch Is the Best Bet

By Pamela Whitaker

Principal, Tri-City Elementary School

For decades, elementary schools have followed a routine that puts lunch before recess. Recently, however, a few schools have broken the mold and switched to recess before lunch. Tri-City Elementary is one of those schools.

At recess, students burn off energy and build up appetites. Then, they come into the lunchroom really ready to eat. They drink more because they have just been exercising. According to the school nurse, taking in extra liquids helps children feel better and stay healthier. Students discard less food because their appetites are better, and they are not hurrying to be first out to the playground. Finally, the teachers believe that students return to the classroom more ready to learn.

Teachers, staff, parents, and students all think the new system is great. I would encourage every elementary school in the country to schedule recess before lunch.



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Words such as *think*, *believe*, *should*, *must*, *never*, *always*, *like*, *hate*, *best*, and *worst* may signal that a statement is an opinion. Scan the article on page 100 again and circle any opinion signal words you find.

Write two facts from the article.

Write two opinions from the article.

Akira, a student at Tri-City Elementary, has written about the new lunch routine. Read the paragraph he wrote.

I used to eat my lunch in about 6 minutes. Terry and I used to race to see who could finish first. Recess is much more fun than lunch. Now that we have recess first, I don't eat so fast. Mom thinks I must be growing because I eat such big lunches now. I think recess is still more fun than lunch, but lunch is okay, too.

Write one fact from Akira's paragraph.

Circle any opinion signal words that you find in Akira's paragraph. Then, write one opinion that Akira states.

Now, based on Ms. Whitaker's and Akira's facts, state your own opinion about having recess before lunch.
