

Inference

Inference is the ability to infer or deduce and draw a conclusion based on experience and prior knowledge rather than direct observation. When inferring you use your experiences from a familiar situation in a new and unknown situation. In a text some things are explicitly and literally there on the page, but sometimes you have to 'read between the lines' and draw your own conclusions to find what is only implicitly stated or suggested in the text. By inferring you create meaning, you make sense of the text.

1.

BILLEDE/ Text	I see/ read:	I know/ assume/ my reaction is:	So:
	<i>Plaster on heels, same position on both feet.</i>	<i>Probably the person has blisters or wounds underneath the plaster.</i>	<i>The person has possibly worn too small shoes/ not used socks in shoes/ walked very far.</i>
Is it valid/ right? What is the proof/ the evidence? <i>This is a common experience</i>		Have I read too much into it? <i>No</i>	

2.

Text	I read:	I know/ I assume/ my reaction is:	So:
Baby shoes for sale. Never worn. (E. Hemingway)	<i>Somebody wants to get rid of baby shoes.</i>	<i>There is no use for baby shoes.</i>	<i>Perhaps the baby died, and the parents want to reduce their feelings of sorrow by not being reminded of the baby.</i>
Is it valid/ right? What is the proof/ the evidence? <i>No direct proof, but a legitimate assumption</i>		Have I read too much into it? <i>Probably not</i>	

3.

Text	I read:	I know/ assume:	So:
Met Alysa at the beach. Took her to my car, dried her off. When legs did not magically appear, I lost interest, dropped her at the aquarium. (Sean Hill: Very Short Stories, Ulysses Press, 2012)	<i>The speaker meets Alysa and expects her legs to appear when she is out of the water. She has, however, no legs.</i>	<i>In fairy tales mermaids can transform into human beings with legs.</i>	<i>The narrator has been cheated by Alysa or has misunderstood her condition.</i>
Is it valid/ right? What is the proof/ the evidence?		Have I read too much into it?	

4. Read the two texts below, and infer their meaning using the questions above.

- a. I took the jar down from the shelf, opened it, and spoke to my father's heart, telling him I loved him, finally conversing heart to heart. (Sean Hill: Very Short Stories, Ulysses Press, 2012)
- b. Perfect for each other, they lived a block apart, but would never meet. They lived in different worlds. His was Facebook, hers was Twitter. (Sean Hill: Very Short Stories, Ulysses Press, 2012)

5. Read this paragraph and answer the questions below.

A mask may not protect the wearer, but it may keep the wearer from spreading the virus to others. COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice (e.g., while shouting, chanting, or singing). These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Recent studies show that a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 lack symptoms (are "asymptomatic") and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (are "pre-symptomatic") can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. To reduce the spread of COVID-19, CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

Which of the following statements are facts, which are inferences? What is your evidence in the text?

- Masks are a supplementary precaution.
- People do not necessarily know that they suffer from COVID-19.
- Serious football fans or church congregations should be particularly alert on avoiding the spread of COVID-19.