

Fact and Opinion • Monitor and Fix Up

- A statement of **fact** tells something that can be proved true or false. You can prove it by reading or asking an expert.
- A statement of **opinion** tells someone's ideas or feelings. Words that tell feelings, such as *should* or *best*, are clues to opinions.
- You can **ask an expert** or **use reference books** to check whether a statement is true.

Directions Read the following passage. Then complete the diagram below.

Swimming is a sport that helps keep people in good shape. If you have any doubt, just ask Mark Spitz. He holds the record for winning the most gold medals in swimming events at the Olympics.

In Germany, at the Olympics in 1972, Spitz won seven gold medals. He also set

new world records in each of the seven events.

During those events, Spitz wore a mustache. The mustache distracted from his great performance. He should have shaved the mustache. That would have been best.

Fact	How to Prove
1. Spitz won most gold medals.	Ask expert or look it up.
2. Spitz set 7 world records.	Ask expert or look it up.

Opinion	Clue words
3. He should have shaved.	Should
4. That would have been best.	Best

5. How can you find out if Mark Spitz won seven gold medals at the Summer Olympics in 1972? _____

Check an encyclopedia, almanac, or the Internet.



Home Activity Your child identified fact and opinion in a nonfiction passage about swimming. Read another passage or editorial with your child and discuss whether the statements are fact or opinion. Have your child explain how to check to be sure seemingly true statements are really facts.