

Name _____

Fact and Opinion

- A **fact** tells something that can be proved true or false.
- An **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.

Janet Evans is a famous swimmer. She won three gold medals at the 1988 Summer Olympics. Four years later, in 1992, she won a gold and a silver medal in the sport. She should have tried harder to make the silver medal into a gold medal.

Janet started swimming at the age of two. That was young. But she should have started swimming at the age of one. When she was 15 years old, she broke a world record. Evans is an American swimmer of whom we can feel proud.

Fact	How to Prove
1. Janet started swimming at age two.	Check a reference book.
2. Evans won two medals at the 1992 Olympics.	Check a reference book.

Opinion	Clue Words
3. She should have started swimming at age one.	should
4. She should have tried harder to win the gold.	should

5. What reference sources would you use to find out if Janet Evans won three gold medals at the 1988 Summer Olympics? Check an encyclopedia, an almanac, on the Internet.



Home Activity Your child identified fact and opinion in a nonfiction passage about a well-known female swimmer. Read a book about another female athlete. Then compare the facts in the book with those in a reference book.