

INFERENCE

What is an Inference?

An inference is a Reading skill. When the reader puts together his or her life experiences with the words of the author, he or she is using inferencing skills. A student who uses inferencing skills can read between the lines to figure out what the author means.

Examples

Maria sat down next to her teacher. Her teacher, Miss Brown, showed her again how to add fractions. Maria smiled and said, "Now I get it!"

What word describes Miss Brown?

- a] sad
- b] mean
- c] helpful
- d] crabby

The correct answer is c] helpful. This tells us that Miss Brown is helpful because she shows a student how to add fractions. We are using inference to figure out that a teacher who shows a student how to do something is a helpful person. We

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Try This!

Use inferencing skills to figure out the correct answers.

1] After he walked home from his Cub Scout meeting, Mark opened the door to his house. The door to his puppy's crate was open. There were papers, bones, and bits of trash all over the kitchen floor.

How old might Mark be?

- a] 4
- b] 20
- c] 9
- d] 30

2] Taylor picked up the present wrapped in bright blue paper with a red bow. She put on her coat over her party dress and walked out to the car where her Mother was waiting.

Taylor is a girl.

- a] true
- b] false