# **Separate Fact from Interpretation Quiz**

Activity: This activity will help you learn the difference between an accurate observation of a person’s behaviour (a fact) and making a judgment based on your interpretation of it.

Read the following statements and decide whether you think the statement is a fact or an interpretation of a person’s behaviour. On the blank line beside each statement, place an “F” for

Fact or an “I” for Interpretation, then check the answers to see how you did.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Harry was not sincere.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ That is the third time you have interrupted me while I was talking.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Harry didn’t look me in the eyes when he spoke to me.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Susan deliberately changed the subject.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Harry talked about the weather.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ The house repair was inadequate.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Susan was discouraged.

8. \_\_\_\_\_ My friend forgot our meeting.

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Frank misinterpreted what I was trying to say.

10. \_\_\_\_ Harry kept talking even after Susan asked him to stop.

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## **Answers to Separate Fact from Interpretation Quiz**

1. Interpretation—We can never know for sure if someone is being sincere or not.
2. Fact—If you were counting the interruptions, it would be an accurate statement of the other’s behaviour.
3. Fact—You can observe whether someone has looked you in the eyes or not, but it would be making a judgment to interpret it as meaning they were guilty of something, for example.
4. Interpretation—She may have changed the subject, but whether it was deliberate or not is a matter of interpretation.
5. Fact—It is an accurate description of what Harry talked about.
6. Interpretation—A statement of fact would be that smoke is still coming out of the furnace.
7. Interpretation—This may be an accurate interpretation, but it is still a guess about her emotional state.
8. Interpretation—The friend missed the meeting, but only he can say whether he forgot about it or not.
9. Interpretation—This could be an accurate interpretation, but there are still other possibilities.
10. Fact—It is an accurate description of what happened.