

Week 1 In-video quiz: Facts, assertions and opinions

1. The planet Mars is smaller in diameter than Earth. Is this statement a fact, an assertion or an opinion?

- a. Fact
- b. Assertion
- c. Opinion
- d. Don't know

2. Mars was named after the Roman god of war, because it has reddish appearance. Is this statement a fact, an assertion or an opinion?

- a. Fact
- b. Assertion
- c. Opinion
- d. Don't know

3. Mars is beautiful. Is this statement a fact, an assertion or an opinion?

- a. Fact
- b. Assertion
- c. Opinion
- d. Don't know

4. In human history, climate change has been the cause of the decline and extinction of civilisations. Is this statement a fact, an assertion or an opinion?

- a. Fact
- b. Assertion
- c. Opinion
- d. Don't know

Answers:

1: (a), This is a fact, which can be demonstrated by observation and measurement.

2: (b), This is an assertion: it is a reasonable (and generally accepted) explanation of the origin of the name of the planet, but it is not possible to prove it objectively by observation, experimentation or measurement.

3: (c), This is clearly an opinion; it may be shared by many people but not necessarily by all, and therefore it remains an opinion.

4: (b), This is an assertion. It is a strong assertion, because it is supported by archaeological evidence. However the interpretation of the evidence can be disputed, so although it is almost certainly true it remains, strictly, an assertion.