

What is an inference?

★ You make an **inference** when you use clues from the story to figure out something that the author *doesn't* tell you.

★ When you make an **inference**, be able to identify the clues that you used.

Read this story about Pete and his friend Ted.

Pete called Ted Tuesday afternoon and invited him to come to his house after dinner to watch a movie. It had been a long, boring day, and Ted was excited to have something to do. After dinner, he hopped on his bike and pedaled over to Pete's house. The house was dark, and when he rang the bell, there was no answer. Ted turned around, hopped back on his bike, and rode home.

- What had Ted concluded?
- What clues in the story helped you to make this inference?
 - 1.
 - 2.

Read this story about Patti.

"Achoo!" Patti sneezed. She sneezed again and then a third time. She felt very warm and her head hurt. She dragged herself out of bed and called her boss. She told her boss she wouldn't be going to work.

- Why wasn't Patti going to work?
- What clues in the story helped you to make this inference?
 - 1.
 - 2.

When you make an inference, you consider what you read and what you know in order to draw a logical conclusion.

Inference= what I read + what I know

Consider:

Three boys are walking down the street. Peter has just shoved his allowance money into his pocket. Ed and Tommy start patting Peter on the back. They are telling him what a good friend he is and what a good football player he is. They also tell him how smart he is. It seems they just can't compliment him enough.

Question	What I Read	What I Know	Conclusion (Inference)
Infer why Ed and Tommy are being so friendly towards Peter.	They saw him put money in his pocket. They compliment him.	People love money, so they will give out compliments	They want his money and hope he will be more willing to share if they compliment him.

Your turn:

Andrew and his mom and dad are all outside in their yard in the snow building a snowman. After only five minutes, Andrew heads for the front door to his house. He's had enough. Mom and Dad look very surprised.

Question	What I Read	What I Know	Conclusion (Inference)
Infer why Mom and Dad looked surprised after Andrew walks inside.			

You ask your sister how she did on her chemistry test. She replies by slamming down her books on a table and snapping, "It's none of your business!"

Question	What I Read	What I Know	Conclusion (Inference)
What can you infer happened?			

