

OET Reading How to identify attitude and opinion



- ✓ Use a notebook to record language
- ✓ Summarise
- ✓ Practise

Language for attitude and opinion

Facts vs attitude and opinion

The writer **highlights** that... *Fact*

The writer **suggests** that... *Attitude and opinion*

The writer **believes** that... *Attitude and opinion*

The study **found** that... *Fact*

According to the writer... *Attitude and opinion*

Identifying attitude and opinion

Nouns

significance importance benefits disadvantages

Adjectives

common fundamental impossible accurate contentious

Tentative language

seems appears tends to hinted at

Adverbs of degree

solely certainly surprisingly

Cases among the middle class are rising in urban India. Dr Raja Dhar, a physician at the West Bengal Fortis Hospital in Kolkata, says that around 70 percent of his TB patients are middle class or affluent professionals, many of whom react with anger or disbelief when they hear his diagnosis. "There is a far greater taboo about people in the affluent class saying that they have TB," Dhar said. "It's like having leprosy years ago." The stigma associated with TB contributes to it being hard to diagnose. That, too, makes what should generally be a straightforward disease to cure more complicated, according to Dhar. But the more fear and shame associated with TB, the less likely that is to happen. For the poorer members of society, diagnosis is further complicated by the inaccuracy of most of the tests, which are more than a century old and not very effective, picking up half the cases of active TB. Modern, more accurate tests certainly exist but are prohibitively expensive with results taking weeks.

Dr Khar believes that the middle class react to the stigma around TB, and their unwillingness to accept their diagnosis can make it more difficult to treat.

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9. In the third paragraph, Dr Raja Dhar suggests that wealthier residents in West Bengal...

- A. are more careful to minimise their risks of contracting TB.
- B. can be too embarrassed by their diagnosis of TB to get treatment.
- C. can suffer more aggressive forms of TB.
- D. will receive better medical care than poorer residents.

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taboo, affluent class, like having leprosy, stigma

We can infer that this makes it more difficult to treat, due to embarrassment

The use of animals is thought to have a beneficial outcome to some patients' emotional, physical and social well-being, a benefit which is supported by the Pets as Therapy Organisation. Interaction with pets can help to facilitate communication between healthcare worker and patient. Some people believe that pets are able to decrease anxiety, such as before painful or unpleasant procedures. However, there is little evidence into the impact of pet therapy on patients in the long term according to Maggie O'Haire, assistant professor of human-animal interaction at Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine who explained that research into the effect of pet therapy is not keeping up with practice, because 'people think it works and like the idea of it, so they do it.'

What is Maggie O'Haire's viewpoint about pet therapy?

- A. it hasn't been sufficiently researched to confirm beneficial outcomes
- B. it is effective and is used widely due to its effectiveness
- C. it decreases anxiety because people are positive about it
- D. it is not yet evidence-based practice but accepted as effective

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Maggie O' Haire's view that there is little evidence.

Further supported here

Developing reading skills

Study ideas

Language for opinion & attitude

There has been much debate....
(People cannot agree)

The jury's still out (No one has come to a decision/there is no one answer)

It could have positive implications (there is a possibility we can use it for positive applications)

Vocabulary for reading C

Unusual = uncommon = strange
= bizarre = odd

Surprising = astonishing = unexpected

Use texts to analyse for language of opinion

Some women claim that they are made to feel guilty if they decide to bottle feed their baby. The NMC has recently released a statement which warns midwives that a woman's choice not to breastfeed her baby must be respected. The Royal College of Midwives' new position statement makes it explicitly clear that women should be supported if, after being given advice, information and support, they opt to bottle feed using formula milk.

Notice the use of linking expressions

Although positive messages abound about the benefits of breastfeeding, women in the UK have the lowest rates of breastfeeding after 12 months in the world. Across the UK, just over a third of new mothers do not even start to breastfeed. By two weeks, slightly over half are breastfeeding and by four months only a hard core of under a third are left. **Yet,** according to Andrew Radford, the programme director of Unicef UK's Baby Friendly Initiative, very few women cannot, physiologically speaking, feed their babies. "The inability to feed is very rare," he said. "If you look at Scandinavia, 99% of babies are breastfed." Breastfeeding in the UK began to slip out of fashion in the 1960s and has hardly recovered. Today, six out of 10 women who breastfeed take steps to hide it in public, often **because** they felt embarrassed or uncomfortable nursing their baby outside the home.

Notice the structure of the paragraph

Studies support breast feeding but don't consider the difficulties

Examples of difficulties

The implications of these difficulties

Although long-term studies seem to support the maxim that 'breast is best', they often fail to explore the difficulties some women experience in establishing a breast feeding routine. Many mothers report early breastfeeding problems such as breast engorgement and sore, cracked nipples. Some report having difficulty helping their baby to latch on to the breast. **It appears therefore, that** women need both encouragement to breastfeed, as well as ongoing support through the early days of lactation.

Make notes while reading

Read across the 12 professions

Do a little each week

Don't leave it too late!