

# Inference, Conclusion, and Prediction

16

2.8 a-c 3.5 b, c, g 3.6 b, d

Authors don't tell you everything they want you to know. They tell you some things directly. They give you clues to figure out the rest. You have to fill in the blanks. Here are some of the ways you can do that.

- **Infer** or **conclude** why someone does something or why something happens. For example, "Tai Shan the panda cub will probably wait until he is two years old to leave because then he will be old enough to live without his mother."
- **Predict** what happens next. For example, "When Tai Shan goes to China, they will probably try to let him live in the wild instead of a zoo."
- **Generalize** that what is true of a small group is also true of a larger one. Be careful, because many generalizations are not true. For example, "Mei Xiang is a girl panda. She takes food from Tian Tian. So all girl pandas take food from boy pandas."

**Solve** You have many clues to help you. The writer provides some. Your own experience of how things work and how people behave are also clues.

## Example

With which of the following answer choices would the author of "Giant Pandas" be MOST LIKELY to agree?

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ⓐ Pandas are very shy.            | Ⓒ Pandas are unhappy in zoos.     |
| Ⓑ Pandas are interesting animals. | Ⓓ Pandas will increase in number. |

**D**  
**I**  
**S**  
**C**  
**U**  
**S**  
**S**

Ⓐ Mei Xiang is shy. But the author says that "Tian Tian isn't so shy." So you can't **generalize** that all pandas are shy.

Ⓑ The author says pandas are special and it is important to learn more about them. We can **infer** that she thinks they are interesting.

Ⓒ This **conclusion** might be true, but it is not supported by details in the passage.

Ⓓ This **prediction** is the opposite of what the author tells us. Nothing in the article supports this answer choice.



**Connections** Suppose the Chinese government stopped protecting pandas. What prediction could you make about their future based on what you know?