

## READING A Blog Entry

### Reading Strategy Identifying Fact and Opinion

Many texts include facts as well as the writer's personal opinion. Facts are statements that can be proved, while opinions describe the writer's beliefs, feelings or thoughts.

#### TIP

Sometimes opinions include clue words such as *feel*, *believe*, *always*, *best*, *most*, *never* and *none*.

**1** You are going to read a blog entry about eSports. The writer mentions the following in her blog. Which are facts and which are opinions?

- 1 eSports is a waste of time.
- 2 They take place in huge arenas.
- 3 It's time to get over the stereotype of gamers as antisocial.
- 4 A 16-year-old boy won \$3 million at a tournament.

 **2** Read the blog entry and choose the correct answer.

- 1 eSports is more inclusive than traditional sports because ...
  - a players need Internet access
  - b physical traits aren't important
  - c girls can also play
  - d not everyone can do them
- 2 According to one survey, almost 50% of players ...
  - a have made friends through eSports
  - b meet in game chat rooms
  - c go to tournaments
  - d play eSports with friends
- 3 Many American universities ...
  - a sponsor the Fortnite World Cup
  - b treat eSports like other sports
  - c have helped make eSports more popular
  - d give all their gamers scholarships

**3** Decide if the following sentences are true or false. Find evidence in the text to justify your answers.

- 1 It's more difficult to become a professional eSports player than a footballer.
- 2 There's a lot of personal interaction between eSports stars and other players.
- 3 Jane enjoys attending tournaments.
- 4 Watching eSports tournaments usually costs nothing.

## WORDS FROM THE TEXT



**4** Find words or expressions in the text that mean:

- 1 changes or develops (lines 6-12)
- 2 deal with (lines 13-18)
- 3 shout encouragement (lines 19-26)
- 4 if (lines 19-26)
- 5 talented (lines 27-33)

**5** Complete the sentences with the words below.

**proof** | **in person** | **meaningful** | **thrilling** | **chance**

- 1 There's a ... new ride at the theme park!
- 2 As a volunteer, I feel I'm doing something ... to help others.
- 3 Please bring your photo ID as ... that you're a student.
- 4 Let's meet ... rather than online.
- 5 Bring an umbrella. There's a ... it will rain.

## PHRASAL VERBS

A phrasal verb is a verb that is followed by one or more particles. The meaning of a phrasal verb is different from the meaning of the verb alone.

*Please speak to Joe tomorrow. (speak = talk)*

*I've decided to **speak out** because the decision is unfair. (**speak out** = to publicly express an opinion)*

 **Grammar Appendix** Workbook, page 110

 **Phrasal Verb List** page 173

**6** Match each phrasal verb in A to its meaning in B.

**A**

- 1 Don't worry, you'll **pick up** the rules while you play.
- 2 I hope you **keep on** writing your blog! I love reading it!
- 3 I didn't want to go to the tournament, but in the end I **gave in**.
- 4 Developers from around the world **joined up** to create this game.
- 5 It's time to **get over** those old stereotypes.
- 6 My parents say gaming is **taking over** my life.

**B**

- a controlling
- b came together
- c continue
- d learn
- e agreed
- f overcome



# Teen Talk!

## Jane's Blog

Hi! I'm 17 years old, I live in Bristol, England, and I'm really into online gaming, or eSports! I'm tired of people saying that gamers are antisocial and that eSports is a waste of time, so I've decided to speak out. Hopefully, by the time you've finished reading this, you'll have realised those people are wrong.

For me, the best thing about eSports is that it's inclusive. Everyone can join in, whether they're short or tall, fit or unfit, male or female. And for talented players, it's easier to go professional than in traditional sports. eSports are also more interesting. Games like football and basketball never change, but eSports constantly evolves. Games get regular updates, and there are always new games, too, with different rules, characters and challenges.

Another thing I like about eSports is that it's social. It's time to get over the stereotype of gamers as antisocial teens who can't handle real life. In a recent player survey, nearly half reported developing meaningful friendships through eSports. Players meet in chat rooms and in person at tournaments and other events. It's easy to chat with top players and even pick up some tips from them.



### YOUR OUTLOOK CRITICAL THINKING

How do you think winning big prize money might affect your life?

The real excitement of gaming happens at the tournaments. I've never had the opportunity to attend one, but I've watched them live online. They take place in huge arenas, where the players sit at computers on stage. Thousands of screaming fans cheer while watching the big screens that show the players' faces and the thrilling game action! Attending traditional sports events or even watching them on TV can be expensive, but with eSports, as long as you've got an Internet-connected device, you can watch for free.

Growing popularity means more money. In 2019, a 16-year-old American boy won \$3 million – in the Fortnite World Cup! Nearly 100 US universities now include eSports in their athletics programmes and offer scholarships to gifted players. As further proof that eSports should be taken seriously, there's even a chance that gamers will be competing in the Olympics soon!

So, what do you think about eSports now?



### LOOKING AT LANGUAGE

- 1 Look at the false friends underlined in the text. How do you say them in your language?
- 2 What does the bolded expression in the sentence below mean?

*I'm **really into** online gaming.*

What other things can you *be into*?

### PRONUNCIATION

- 3 Listen and repeat.
  - 1 I live in Bristol. /ɪ/
  - 2 I watched it live online. /aɪ/
- 4 Match the bolded letters in each word below to the correct phonetic symbol /ɪ/ or /aɪ/. Then listen and check your answers.
 

excitement | Olympics | Fortnite device | thrilling