

Name: _____ Date: _____

Imply vs. Infer

The words **imply** and **infer** are often confused and misused. However, their meanings are nearly opposite. Here's what you need to know to use them correctly.

Imply means to express indirectly, to hint, to indicate.

Examples:

"What is that supposed to mean?" asked Logan.
"Are you **implying** that I cheated?"

The puzzled look on Lisa's face **implied** that she wasn't expecting me.

Infer means to come to a conclusion based on the evidence presented, to guess, to surmise.

Examples:

"I **infer** from that remark that you think I cheated," said Logan.

I **inferred** from the puzzled look on Lisa's face that she wasn't expecting me.

Directions: Underline the correct boldfaced word in each sentence.

- Christina winked, **implying/infering** that she was in on the joke.
- Joshua looked out the window and saw that most people were wearing short sleeves; he **implied/inferred** that it was warm outside.
- It's often possible to **imply/infer** the meaning of an unfamiliar word from other information in the sentence.
- Implying/Inferring** that I should help him pack the car, my dad said, "We'd probably get on the road faster if I didn't have to pack all of this myself."
- The cliff-hanger at the end of the movie **implies/infers** that Andy's adventures are not over.
- I **implied/inferred** from Nora's message—"Call me the *second* you get this!"—that Nora had big news.

Directions: For each sentence below, fill in the blank with a form of **imply** or **infer**. Then write your own sentence using a form of **imply** or **infer**.

7. Based on the sports clothes that Kyle was wearing, I _____ that he was about to go to soccer practice.

8. Jorge _____ from Elise's bored expression that she was not enjoying the movie.

9. _____