



Facts and Inferences Andrea Johnson

Through our abstracting processes we create categories; they are all *mind-made*. We construct them and we can de-construct them.

Irving J. Lee taught his students that structurally and grammatically, there is no difference between a **factual** and an **inferential** statement. But these differences can be noted:

A Factual Statement	An Inferential Statement
1. Must be made <i>after</i> some observation	1. Can be made anytime
2. Stays within what can be observed	2. Goes beyond what can be observed
3. Can be made in limited number	3. Can be made in unlimited number
4. Provides closest approach to certainty	4. Shows some degree of probability

You are an idiot! has a much greater emotional impact than *You act like an idiot sometimes!*

"Is of Identity statements have the ability to powerfully stimulate signal reactions, not even giving a chance for the unprepared individual to buffer the blow."

— Ed Kellogg writing about E-Prime