

IMPLY OR INFER

Imply means to suggest or hint at something indirectly. **Infer** means to figure out or draw a conclusion from that hint. The speaker implies, and the listener infers.

To imply:

- To imply is to send a message.
- The speaker or writer does the action.
- It is done without stating the point directly.
- Example: "Jamal's yawn implies that he is bored."

To infer:

- To infer is to read between the lines.
- The listener or reader does the action.
- It uses clues to make a smart guess.
- Example: "Chloë inferred from Jamal's yawn that he was bored."

Directions: Write each sentence using the correct term in parentheses.

1. Rachel [implied/inferred] that she was not accepted into Harvard when the university sent her a letter rather than a packet.

2. Good grief, Charlotte; what exactly are you trying to [imply/infer] with that smug look!?

3. My boss [implied/inferred] that I am getting the promotion when she invited me to lunch.

4. Based on his students' lack of enthusiasm, Mr. Besançon [implied/inferred] that they weren't excited for the test.

5. Siobhan's tears [implied/inferred] that she wasn't pleased with getting a pair of socks for her birthday.

Bonus: Implication or Inference

1. When you tell your boyfriend that you don't want to meet his parents, the [implication/inference] is that you're not serious about him.

2. His [implication/inference] is based on a misunderstanding of my reason for declining the invitation.
