Inference vs. Observation
What is an observation?

* When you observe, you become aware of something using one of your senses.
Qualitative Observation

* Sometimes scientists must make very careful observations.

* There are some things that cannot be observed using just your senses so scientists have developed tools to help. (microscopes, telescopes, ect.)
What is an inference?

* When you infer, you make a mental judgment based on observations.

* Inferences cannot be directly observed. They require thought.

* An inference is a statement based on your interpretation of the facts.
## Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observation</th>
<th>Inference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The plant is extremely wilted</td>
<td>The plant is wilted due to lack of water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The car stopped running</td>
<td>The car stopped running because it ran out of gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Habs are leading in their division</td>
<td>The Habs are leading because Price is the best goalie of all time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Test your skills of observation

- Would you make a good eyewitness?
- Are you able to observe just facts and not get distracted?
- Test: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJG698U2Mvo