

## ACTIVITY 2

A01

SKILLS PROBLEM SOLVING

LEARNING

## KEY POINT

You need to know how to recognise writing that states facts and then question whether the use of the factual form is justified.

## ▼ FACT, OPINION OR ARGUMENT?

Read the following extracts, then decide whether they are fact, opinion, argument, or opinion presented as fact.

'It's a fact that boys are stronger than girls.'

'Everyone knows that Britain will be better off outside the European Union. I don't know anyone who thinks otherwise.'

'We should encourage immigration into this country for three reasons: it supplies us with more skills, it helps us to understand other cultures and it is morally a good thing to do.'

'The USA is more powerful in military terms than Russia.'

'I think that all religions are equally valid: I don't know about all of them, but they all have their good points and their less good points.'

## ADVICE

Non-fiction texts can contain examples of advice. For example, a book review may advise you to read or not to read a particular book. An online article may advise you how to save money, how to prepare for a hot summer, or recommend places to visit. An 'agony aunt' in a magazine could suggest ways of coping with problems in a personal relationship.

Generally speaking, people appreciate advice more if it comes from someone who knows what they are talking about: an expert. Advice is linked to persuasive writing, since it tries to influence the person being advised.

**coolest** The expert makes the advice seem more attractive by associating the recommended course of action with 'the coolest' people.

**you can do it** The tone is encouraging.

**set... stick... try... keep** These are imperatives: they are all commands. What effect does this have?

**get some support** Advice often suggests how to get more support and advice.

**avoid the shops** Advice is often both positive and negative ('dos and don'ts'); for example, 'avoid the shops' is a 'don't'.

Dear Billy,

Your letter shows you really want to give up smoking and that is the first step to making it happen. You won't be alone; all the **coolest** people are giving it up now.

Make no mistake, it is difficult to stop – but **you can do it**. Lots of people have managed to kick the habit.

Here's how you start.

Make a plan.

1. Set a date for your last cigarette and **stick** to it!
2. Try to **get some support** from a friend or relative. It always helps to talk to someone about problems – a problem shared is a problem halved!
3. **Keep** busy to help take your mind off ciggies. Perhaps take up a new hobby or sport, like cycling.
4. Try to change your routine, and **avoid the shops** where you usually buy cigarettes.
5. Save up the money that you normally spend on cigarettes and buy something special for yourself with it.

Good luck – I hope it all goes well. Quitting smoking will make you feel a lot better and, with the exercise from your cycling, you should be able to wave stress goodbye!

All the best,

Nadiya