



Distinguishing between fact and opinion

Michael Owen bemused by Newcastle United boos

Manchester United striker Michael Owen says he was disappointed after being booed by Newcastle fans during Tuesday's 0-0 draw at St James's Park.

The former Magpies man was jeered when he came on after 81 minutes.

Owen said on Twitter: "Got a poor reception off the home fans which was disappointing. Was desperate to score!"

He added: "Knew I would get booed as that's what a lot of fans do but if they knew the facts then they may have a different opinion."



Michael Owen is clear that there is a difference between fact and opinion. He is disappointed by the fans' **opinion** of him but believes that knowing the **facts** might change that opinion.

- A **fact** is something that can be proved to be correct.
- An **opinion** is what someone thinks or believes. It cannot be proved to be correct or incorrect.

Owen [joined Newcastle from Real Madrid](#) for £16m in 2005 and scored 30 goals in 79 appearances in an injury-hit four years on Tyneside.

- Owen joined Newcastle from Real Madrid.
- The transfer cost £16 million.
- The transfer took place in 2005.
- He scored 30 goals in 79 appearances.
- He spent four years on Tyneside (another name for Newcastle)

All these statements can be checked and proved by looking at the records.

Owen said: "When I meet Newcastle or Liverpool fans they all respect what I've done for their clubs. In stadiums it changes, one boo and the rest follow."

Here are some opinions from the same article:

- Newcastle or Liverpool fans respect what he has done. (Some probably do, but do all of them? How could it be proved?)
- One boo and the rest follow. (It may seem so, but how could it be proved?)

Facts can be proved to be correct; opinions might also be correct but they can't be proved.