

ALOE

A LESSON ON ENGLISH

Fall 2011. Vol 5, #6

Fiction vs. Non-fiction

The world of writing is divided into two major categories: fiction and non-fiction.

FICTION: writing from the imagination.

Although elements of a work of fiction may exist in the “real” physical world (often the setting is in a real time and place), most often the characters and plotline are not real.

NON-FICTION: writing that is faithful to the physical world that exists as humans perceive it. In non-fiction, the reader can assume that the setting, characters and events are real.

Note: Mood, tone and theme are neither “real” nor “not-real” and therefore can be directly compared in works of fiction and non-fiction.

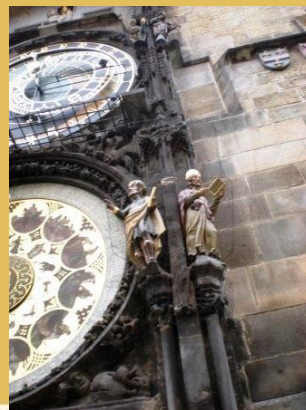
However, there are significant exceptions and ways in which the rules do not apply:

Fiction may incorporate elements such as real places, people, events or narratives (stories).

To p. 2



Books are classified as fiction and non-fiction.



ALOE newsletter
International Leadership Institute
Sara Tusek, Editor
Florida and Prague
Email: publications@ili.cc

www.ili.cc

ALOE

Fiction vs Non-fiction

From p. 1

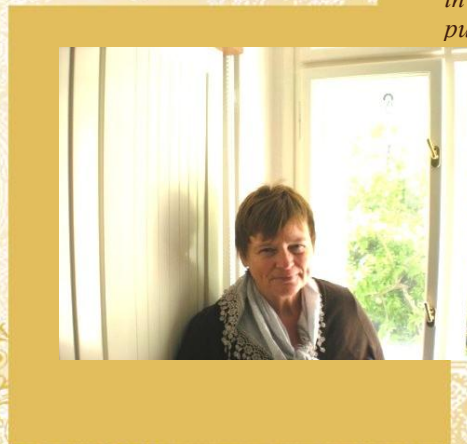
It's fashionable in post-modern fiction to make up entire stories about real people. These stories never happened, so they are fiction; what's confusing is that the people are not fiction. Post-modern novels about famous presidents, actors, politicians, and real-life heroes use the person as a starting point and invent lives for them, based on whatever the novelist can imagine.

Non-fiction may have large elements that are unverified, theoretical or experimental. Textbooks, which one would think should be completely real and factual, often include theories that have not been proven or can't be proven by current methods. In particular, science and math textbooks may have information that is later shown to be wrong—fiction, in other words.

Non-fiction always includes opinions, which are not real. An opinion is based on one person's beliefs and perspectives. Opinion influences how writers report on people and events, so each person's report is unique; it's not based on reality.

As with so many things in life, the line between fiction and non-fiction is fuzzy, not sharp!

Sara Tusek, with more than 26 years of experience in education, directs the American English Language Institute. Currently based in Prague, Czech Republic, the Institute provides courses in English for academic purposes: www.ili.cc



"A Lesson on English" is a series of short lessons created for people who want to become fluent in conversational English. The lessons are practical and useful for students learning English in a traditional classroom setting or on their own.

Visit our blog:
<http://englishinprague.blogspot.com/>

**International Leadership Institute,
providing leadership and career
development programs, services and
publications in the U.S. and Europe
since 1985**

ILI Publications

Newsletters at www.ili.cc:
Leaders to Follow
Servant Leaders
Careers
continuous conversion
ALOE: A Lesson on English

Blogs:
<http://jbt-yournextjob.blogspot.com/>
<http://englishinprague.blogspot.com/>
<http://ilileadership.blogspot.com/>
<http://writingwisdom.blogspot.com/>
<http://praguepies.blogspot.com/>

Books at www.ili.cc:
21st Century Jobs
*Three Things You can't Do in
Prague*
Three Things that Last Forever