

## Predicting and inferring – the subtle difference

- Predicting is a type of “forward inferring”, whereas other inferring happens while looking back, or at the present moment of reading.
- Experts predict at every turn of their task:
- *Proficient readers* make **predictions** smoothly and without much thought, then confirm or disconfirm them based on continued reading.
- *Scientists* make careful and thoughtful predictions and adjust them accordingly, depending on the result of their studies.
- *Mathematicians* make predictions, generalize, and estimate all through their reading and studying.
- Although predicting and inferring overlap, *inferring is more difficult* because you must be more precise. Predicting is something you can check your accuracy on in further reading, but inferring is not as easy to get feedback on.

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