

Drawing Conclusions

If you've ever read a mystery or seen a detective show, you know that the detectives need more than one source of evidence to prove their points.

Readers can make inferences based on a single clue, but they need to use more than one clue to draw a conclusion. While an inference is an educated guess, a conclusion is a definite belief that the reader has developed by looking at evidence in a text.

Let's look at the last two paragraphs of our reading passage and see what conclusions we can draw from it:

The Passage	My Notes
<p>In 1974 fortune cookie manufacturing changed forever. Edward Louie, the owner of the Lotus Fortune Cookie Company in San Francisco, invented a machine that could insert the fortune and fold the cookie. In 1980 Yong Lee created the first fully automated fortune cookie machine, called the Fortune III. Modern machines follow the same steps of handmade fortune cookies: they mix ingredients, pour batter into 3" cups which are then covered with metal plates to keep the batter flat and bake for about 3 ½ minutes. Vacuums then suck fortunes into place, use metal fingers to fold the fortune in half to trap the fortune inside, bend the cookie into shape, and cool and package the final cookie. Now fortune cookie machines like the Kitamura FCM-8006W can make</p>	<p>What caused this change?</p> <p>Fortune cookies could probably be made without as much labor.</p> <p>Automating the process did not necessarily affect the quality of the cookie if the machine followed the same steps.</p> <p>This far exceeds the number of cookies that can be made by hand, so it'd be much easier</p>

<p>up to 8,000 cookies in an hour!</p> <p>Fortune cookies are a prominent part of Asian-American cuisine and have filtered into popular culture as well. People create customized fortune cookies to send funny messages to friends and family—and sometimes to even propose marriage to a loved one! They are even used in advertising campaigns for corporations. Even though popular belief says otherwise, modern fortune cookies are as American as baseball and apple pie.</p>	<p>to distribute the cookies all over the country.</p> <p>The cookies are not only a common feature at a Chinese food restaurant, but they are used to spread memorable messages in everyday life.</p>
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As I took notes, I noticed the following:

- The invention of machines that could manufacture fortune cookies greatly increased their rate of production and most likely reduced the cost of labor.
- Fortune cookies are now not only a common part of Asian cuisine, but they are widely used to deliver meaningful messages.

Conclusion: Automating the process of making fortune cookies enabled the treat to become a key part of American culture.