

**RECURSOS
PRÁCTICOS
SABER PRO INGLÉS**



**ESTRATEGIAS DE
COMPRESIÓN LECTORA**

READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

Preparation Resources for *Saber Pro Inglés*

To go through the English component of Saber Pro it is necessary to read effectively and to be aware of different reading strategies that can help you to take the exam and reach a peak performance. These seven strategies are helpful to improve your reading skills:

1. SCANNING

Scanning is a rapid reading technique used to find specific, targeted information, such as a name, date, or number, without reading every word. It means looking for one specific piece of information in a text. When you scan, you do not read every word. You do not read the whole text. Your eyes move very fast to find a specific word, a number, a name, or a date. It is like looking for a name in your phone's contact list.

Example:

"My family has a big dog. His name is Max. He is **3** years old. He loves to eat chicken."

1: How old is the dog?

Answer: 3 years old.

Tips for Scanning:

- ✓ Know what you need: Before you read, look at the question. Are you looking for a number? A name? A place?
- ✓ Move your eyes fast: Let your eyes slide down the page quickly. Do not stop reading.
- ✓ Look for clues:
 - If you need a year or age, look only for numbers (e.g., 2026, 15).
 - If you need a person or city, look for capital letters (e.g., Bogotá, Maria).
- ✓ Stop and read: When you find the keyword, stop! Now, read that specific sentence carefully to get the answer.

Guided Practice

Answer questions 1 to 5 with the information from the text.

Meet My Family

Hi! My name is Lucas. I want to show you this photo of my family. Look at these people next to me; they are my parents. My father is tall and he has short, brown hair. His name is Roberto. That woman with beautiful green eyes is my mother. Her name is Elena, and she is very kind. Behind them is my sister, Sofia. She is short and she has long, blonde hair. Our dog, Bruno, is next to her. Bruno is a small, black dog. Finally, look at that house in the background. It is our new home. We love living here because it is big and comfortable. I love my family very much!

Questions

1. What is Lucas's father like?

- A) He is short with brown hair.
- B) He is tall with short hair.
- C) He is tall with green eyes.

Answer: B) He is tall with short hair.

Explanation: The text says: "My father is tall, and he has short, brown hair." Match the words tall and short to find the correct answer.

2. Who has long, blonde hair?

- A) Elena
- B) Bruno
- C) Sofia

Answer: C) Sofia

Explanation: Scan the text for the words long, blonde hair. The sentence talks about Sofia before those words. The word *she* refers to Sofia.

3. What color is the family dog?

- A) Black
- B) Brown
- C) Green

Answer: A) Black

Explanation: Find the name of the dog, Bruno. The text says: "Bruno is a small, black dog." The word 'color' is directly mentioned in the text.

4. Which word is used to describe their mother, Elena?

- A) Short
- B) Kind
- C) Tall

Answer: B) Kind

Explanation: Find the name *Elena* in the text. The text says: "Her name is Elena, and she is very kind." The word kind is the correct description.

5. What is the family's new house like?

- A) Small and comfortable
- B) Old and big
- C) Big and comfortable

Answer: C) Big and comfortable

Explanation: Look for the word *house or home* at the end of the text. The text says: "...our new home. We love living here because it is big and comfortable." The words match perfectly with option C.

2. SKIMMING

Skimming is a quick reading strategy that allows you to identify the main idea of a text without reading word-by-word in detail, as well as recognizing the author's intention, and the most relevant ideas. In the Saber Pro exam, skimming helps you save time and get a general vision of the content of the text before answering the reading questions.

How to use skimming

- Read the title, it indicates the general topic of the text.
- Read the first and last paragraph, they contain the main idea and the conclusion.
- Read the first sentences of each paragraph, they usually present the main ideas.
- Do not translate word-by-word, focus on understanding the general meaning.

Tips for answering questions using skimming:

- ✓ Read the questions first to know what information you need.
- ✓ Do not translate everything, focus on the main idea.
- ✓ Ignore the unknown words, understand their meaning by the general context.
- ✓ Use the title and the repeated words to identify the topic of the text.
- ✓ Use skimming specially for questions such as:
 - What is the text mainly about?
 - What is the purpose of the text?
 - What is the main idea?
- ✓ Control the time and avoid reading the full text slowly.

Guided Practice

Answer questions 1 to 3 according to the following text.

Cultural Traditions in a Modern World

Culture connects people with their history and traditions. Around the world, communities have different customs, festivals, music, and art. Some traditions disappeared, but many still exist today.

In Colombia, the Wayuu community in La Guajira continues making traditional colorful bags and clothes. Many tourists visit the region to learn about their culture. Other countries also protect their traditions. In Japan, people still celebrate traditional festivals, and many schools include cultural activities for students.

Technology has changed the way people learn about culture. In the past, traditions came from family members. Today, people use social media and the internet to discover cultures from other countries.

Some experts think globalization affects local traditions negatively because young people sometimes prefer foreign lifestyles. However, others believe cultures naturally change over time. Today, governments and organizations work to protect languages, festivals, and traditional art so these traditions can continue in the future.

1. What is the main topic of the text?

- A. The influence of tourism in different countries
- B. The importance of protecting and maintaining cultural traditions
- C. The history of traditional festivals around the world
- D. The impact of schools on modern technology

Answer: B.

Explanation: *The text mentions multiple times traditions, culture, and how people protect them. The other options mention small parts of the text, but option B includes the main idea of the reading.*

2. What is the purpose of the text?

- A. To explain why some countries are more modern than others
- B. To describe how people travel and learn about cultures
- C. To discuss how traditions change and continue over time
- D. To compare cultural activities in schools and communities

Answer: C

Explanation: *The text explains that cultures change with time, technology, and globalization, but people also try to preserve traditions.*

3. What can we understand from the text?

- A. Cultural traditions never change in modern society
- B. Young people no longer participate in traditions
- C. Cultures adapt while trying to preserve important customs
- D. Globalization has completely destroyed local cultures

Answer: C

Explanation: *The text mentions that cultures are changing and adapting in modern society, but many traditions still continue. The reading does not mention that cultures disappeared completely.*

NOTE: even though scanning and skimming have similarities. There are some essential differences to consider:

- Scanning helps you locate precise information.
- Scanning is useful for answering questions that require finding specific facts.
- Skimming helps you understand the overall meaning of the text.
- Skimming is useful for answering the main idea and summary questions.

3. LOCATING THE MAIN IDEA

It means identifying the central message or most important point that the author wants to communicate in a paragraph or a complete text. The main idea is usually supported by details, examples, or explanations that help develop it. This skill allows you to understand the purpose of the text and distinguish the essential information from the supporting details. Read the text in English and answer the questions by identifying the sentence or general idea that best expresses the author's main point.

Example:

"Many people exercise every day because it improves their physical and mental health. Regular exercise also helps reduce stress and increases energy levels."

The main idea is: Regular exercise has many health benefits.

Tips for answering successfully:

- ✓ Read the title and introduction first: they usually provide clear clues about the central theme.
- ✓ Look for repeated words or ideas: if they appear in several paragraphs, they're likely part of the main idea.
- ✓ Distinguish between the main idea and examples: examples support the message, but they aren't the message itself.
- ✓ Ignore secondary details: focus on what ties the entire text together.
- ✓ Summarize mentally: ask yourself, "What is this text about in a single sentence?"; that sentence will be the main idea.

Guided Practice

Answer questions 1 to 5 according to the information from the text.

Life in a Growing City

In recent years, many medium-sized cities have experienced growth and development. These places combine the calm atmosphere of small towns with new opportunities for education, work, and culture. People enjoy living in a community where they know their neighbors but also have access to modern services.

Daily life in such a city is often balanced between tradition and progress. Residents can walk through local markets, enjoy regional food, and participate in cultural festivals. At the same time, new businesses, schools, and health centers are opening, giving families more options for their future.

Nature also plays an important role. The city is surrounded by rivers, green areas, and nearby mountains, which provide spaces for recreation and relaxation. This connection with nature makes the city attractive for visitors and helps residents to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

1. What is the general idea of the text?

- A. Small towns are better than cities.
- B. Medium-sized cities offer a mix of tradition, progress, and nature.

- C. People only care about modern services and malls.
- D. Festivals are the most important part of a calm life.

Correct answer: B

Explanation: The text talks about cities that are growing. It says they have tradition (markets, festivals), progress (new schools, businesses), and nature (rivers, mountains). That is why the main idea is the mix of these three things.

2. According to the text, what do residents enjoy in daily life?

- A. Local markets and cultural festivals.
- B. The mix between modern technology and traditions.
- C. Traveling to big capitals.
- D. Avoiding community activities.

Correct answer: A

Explanation: In the second paragraph, the text says people can walk through local markets and join cultural festivals. These are examples of what residents enjoy doing every day.

3. What new opportunities are mentioned in the first paragraph?

- A. Education, work, and culture.
- B. Only sports.
- C. Shopping, transportation, and nature.
- D. Development and a calm atmosphere.

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The first paragraph says that medium-sized cities give new opportunities for education, work, and culture. These words are directly in the text, so this is the correct answer.

4. What role does nature play in the city?

- A. It brings tourists who set up businesses.
- B. It makes people move away.
- C. It provides more options for families in the future.
- D. It provides spaces for recreation and relaxation.

Correct answer: D

Explanation: The third paragraph explains that rivers, green areas, and mountains give people places to relax and enjoy free time. This shows that nature is important for recreation and health.

5. What do the three paragraphs together show?

- A. The city is dangerous and stressful, and there is not enough progress.
- B. The city is only about food.
- C. The city combines community life, modern services, and nature.
- D. The city has opportunities for some people only.

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Each paragraph adds one part:

First: community.

Second: tradition and progress.

Third: nature.

Together, they show that the city has all three: community, services, and nature.

4. UNDERSTANDING REFERENCE

It means identifying which person, thing, or idea a word in the text refers to. Usually, this applies to pronouns (he, she, it, they, them) or demonstratives (this, that, these, those). This skill allows you to follow the thread of the text without repeating names and to understand the relationships between sentences. Read the text in English and answer the questions by indicating the specific element each pronoun or demonstrative refers to, or, when necessary, the general idea of the sentence or paragraph.

Example:

“The dog chased the ball. It ran fast.” — **it** refers to *the dog*.

Tips for answering referential questions:

- ✓ Start with the clearest pronouns: *it* usually refers to things or ideas; *they/them* to people or things in the plural.
- ✓ Demonstratives (*this/that/these/those*) often point to the idea expressed in the previous sentence or to a group of objects mentioned.

If a pronoun refers to more than one noun, reread the paragraph to decide which makes the most sense according to the information and logic.

Guided Practice

Look at the words in bold and answer questions 1 to 5.

Typical Food from Colombia

Colombian food is famous for its variety and strong regional flavors. In the Caribbean region, people often eat arepas and patacones; **they** are served at many meals and are usually eaten with fish or meat. In the Andean region, the **bandeja paisa** is a large plate with rice, beans, ground meat, chicharrón, and a fried egg. Many families prepare **it** for celebrations because **it** shows hospitality and tradition. In the Pacific and Amazon areas, local fruits and fish are common; **these** ingredients give dishes a fresh and unique taste. Street vendors sell empanadas, buñuelos, and fruit juices, and visitors like to try **them** to taste authentic food. Overall, Colombian cuisine mixes indigenous, African, and Spanish influences, and **this** mix makes the food interesting and memorable.

Questions

1. In “**they** are served at many meals”, what does **they** refer to?

Answer: They → Arepas and patacones

Explanation: The sentence says “they are served at many meals,” and the previous line mentions arepas and patacones, so “they” refers to those foods.

2. In “Many families prepare **it** for celebrations”, what is **it**?

Answer: It → *The bandeja paisa*

Explanation: The text says “Many families prepare it for celebrations.” The closest singular noun before this is “the bandeja paisa,” so “it” refers to that dish.

3. What does **these** refer to in “**these** ingredients give dishes a fresh and unique taste”?

Answer: These → *Local fruits and fish*

Explanation: The sentence says “these ingredients give dishes a fresh and unique taste.” The ingredients mentioned just before are local fruits and fish, so “these” points to them.

4. In “visitors like to try **them**”, what does **them** represent?

Answer: Them → *Empanadas, buñuelos, and fruit juices*

Explanation: The text says “visitors like to try them.” The foods listed right before are empanadas, buñuelos, and fruit juices, so “them” refers to those items.

5. What does **this** mean in “and **this** mix makes the food interesting and memorable”?

Answer: This → *The mix of indigenous, African, and Spanish influences*

Explanation: The text indicates “Colombian cuisine mixes indigenous, African, and Spanish influences”, and then, adds that ‘this’ mix makes food more interesting. “This” makes references to a word that was previously mentioned to avoid repetition.

5. MAKING INFERENCES

Making an inference is often referred to as reading between the lines. It is the process of making a guess about something you don't know for sure, based on the information available. One of the strategies is using clues from a text together with your own knowledge and experience to understand information that is not directly stated. Readers "read between the lines" to discover hidden meanings, emotions, intentions, or conclusions.

Try this formula: **Text Clues + Prior Knowledge = Inference**

For example:

Text clue: Maria wore a coat, gloves, and a scarf.

Prior knowledge: People wear these clothes in cold weather.

Inference: It is probably cold outside.

Types of Inferences

1. Inferring Feelings

Readers identify emotions that are not directly mentioned.

Example

Text: Carlos slammed the door and refused to answer his phone.

Inference:

Carlos is probably angry or upset.

2. Inferring Causes

Readers determine why something happened.

Example

Text: The streets were wet, and people carried umbrellas.

Inference:

It probably rained recently.

3. Inferring Predictions

Readers predict what may happen next.

Example

Text: The dark clouds moved quickly across the sky.

Inference:

A storm may happen soon.

Tips for making inferences:

- ✓ Read the whole sentence and the sentences before and after.
- ✓ Look for clue words like for example, however, because, such as.
- ✓ Try to understand the whole idea. It makes you understand better.

- ✓ If unsure, keep reading; sometimes later sentences confirm the meaning.

Guided Practice

Read the text and answer questions 1 to 5.

A Difficult Morning

Sofia, a young woman from an indigenous community in the Colombian plains, woke up late when she saw the sun had risen. She quickly got out of her *chinchorro* and looked outside. The sky was gray, and heavy rain hit the windows. She rushed to the kitchen but found only a piece of *casabe* for breakfast. While she was walking to school, she checked her backpack and realized she had forgotten her Spanish project at home. When she arrived at school, her teacher asked everyone to prepare their presentations.

Questions

1. How was Sofia probably feeling during the morning?

Answer: She was probably feeling stressed or nervous.

Evidence: She woke up late, rushed to school, forgot her project, and had a presentation that day.

2. What can we infer about the weather?

Answer: The weather was cold and rainy.

Evidence: The text says the sky was gray and heavy rain hit the windows.

3. Why did Sofia check her backpack?

Answer: She probably wanted to make sure she had everything for school.

Evidence: Students often check their bags before school activities or presentations.

4. What will probably happen next?

Answer: Sofia may feel embarrassed or worried because she forgot her science project.

Evidence: The teacher asked students to prepare their presentations.

5. Was Sofia's morning organized or chaotic?

Answer: Her morning was chaotic.

Evidence: She woke up late, rushed, had little breakfast, and forgot an important project.

6. THINKING LOGICALLY

It means using the context of a sentence or text to choose the word or expression that best completes each blank. To do this, you need to identify logical relationships such as cause and effect, sequence, contrast, addition, or the correct grammatical structure. This skill helps you understand how ideas are connected and how sentences are organized to create meaning. Read the text in English and complete each blank by selecting the option that best fits the context and the overall meaning of the passage.

Example:

In the passage: "Sara studied very hard. ____, she passed the exam with excellent results."

The missing word is **"Therefore"**, because it shows a cause-and-effect relationship.

Tips for answering successfully:

- ✓ Read the whole sentence: Sometimes the meaning depends on the words before and after the blank.
- ✓ Check grammar: Look at verb tense, singular/plural, and prepositions.
- ✓ Think logically: Choose the word that makes sense in the context, not only the one that "sounds nice."
- ✓ Eliminate wrong options: If one option is clearly incorrect, focus on the remaining ones.

Guided Practice

Choose the correct word to fill in the blanks from 1 to 8.

Is being bilingual more relevant than speaking a single language?

In today's world, communication is very important. People who speak only one language sometimes find it difficult to connect with others. (1) ____, bilingual people can talk to more communities and understand different cultures.

Being bilingual also helps in education and work. Many companies (2) ____ employees who can speak more than one language. (3) ____, students with bilingual skills can study abroad more easily.

There are also personal advantages. When you learn a second language, your brain (4) ____ stronger and more flexible. (5) ____, you can enjoy movies, books, and music in their original language.

Of course, speaking one language is still useful. But in a global society, bilingualism (6) ____ more opportunities. (7) ____, it is becoming more relevant every year. (8) ____, being bilingual is not only a skill, but also a way to connect with the world.

- (1) ____
a) However
b) In addition
c) Because

Answer: B

Explanation: 'in addition' indicates extra information.

- (2) ____
a) prefer
b) prefers
c) preferred

Answer: A

Explanation: correct verb conjugation for "many companies", which is plural.

- (3) ____
a) Then
b) Next
c) Suddenly

Answer: B

Explanation: 'next' indicates sequence.

- (4) ____
a) become
b) becomes
c) becoming

Answer: B

Explanation: correct verb conjugation for the subject 'brain', which is singular.

- (5) ____
a) For example
b) Because
c) But

Answer: A

Explanation: it illustrates the specific activities related to learning a language.

- (6) ____
a) give
b) gives
c) giving

Answer: B

Explanation: correct verb conjugation for 'bilingualism', which is singular.

- (7) ____
a) In fact
b) Suddenly
c) Because

Answer: A

Explanation: this expression emphasizes the previous statement about the opportunities that bilingualism brings.

- (8) ____
a) Finally
b) Next
c) But

Answer: A

Explanation: it indicates the end of the text.

7. GUESSING MEANINGS FROM CONTEXTS

Guessing meanings from context means using the words and ideas around an unknown word to figure out what it probably means. It helps you keep reading without stopping to look up every word and builds vocabulary naturally.

Example:

The village festival was full of color. People wore bright costumes and adornments that showed their local traditions. A woman wore a shawl with tiny mirrors and embroidered flowers...

- Unknown word: **adornments**

When guessing meaning from contexts, you might:

Read the sentence: "People wore bright costumes and adornments that showed their local traditions."

Look for clues: The sentence: bright costumes, then shawl with tiny mirrors and embroidered flowers, and a hat with a feather. These are things added to clothing.

Make a guess: adornments = decorations or accessories added to clothes

Tips:

- ✓ Read the whole sentence and the sentences before and after.
- ✓ Look for clue words like for example, however, because, such as.
- ✓ Try to understand the whole idea. It makes you understand better.
- ✓ If unsure, keep reading; sometimes later sentences confirm the meaning.

Guided Practice

Read the text and answer questions 1 to 5.

Clothing as a Cultural Symbol

Clothing is more than fabric and thread. It often shows who we are, where we come from, and what we believe. In many places, traditional clothes tell a story about history and identity. For example, a woven shawl or a patterned dress can show a person's region, family group, or social role. Colors, shapes, and decorations carry meaning. Bright colors may celebrate joy or festivals. Dark colors may show mourning or formality.

Clothing can also mark important life events. People wear special outfits for weddings, funerals, and religious ceremonies. These clothes help everyone understand the event without words. Uniforms do a similar job. A uniform can show

a job, a team, or a rank. When people wear the same uniform, it creates a sense of belonging and order.

Fashion is another way clothing becomes a symbol. Trends can express ideas about freedom, protest, or status. For instance, a style that starts in one city can spread and become a sign of youth or rebellion. Brands and logos can also signal social class or taste. Some people choose clothes to show they follow a certain group or idea. Others use clothing to resist or change social rules.

Clothing can also be a bridge between cultures. When people move to new places, they may mix styles from their homeland with local fashion. This mixing creates new looks and new meanings. At the same time, clothing can cause misunderstandings. A garment that is respectful in one culture might be seen as strange in another. That is why learning about clothing traditions helps us respect others.

Questions

1. In the sentence “traditional clothes are emblems of history and identity,” what does emblems most likely mean?

- A. small pieces of cloth
- B. symbols that represent something
- C. types of food
- D. machines for weaving.

Answer: B

Explanation: Traditional clothes represent a person's history and identity, so the word 'emblems' means symbols.

2. In “Dark colors may show mourning or formality,” what does mourning most likely mean?

- A. a type of party
- B. a style of sewing
- C. a time of sadness after a death
- D. a bright celebration

Answer: C

Explanation: Dark colors are often associated with grief, so mourning means sadness after someone dies.

3. In “A uniform can show a job, a team, or a rank,” what does rank most likely mean?

- A. the smell of clothes
- B. a position or level in a group
- C. the color of fabric

D. a type of fabric

Answer: B

Explanation: Uniforms can show a person's role or status, so *rank* means position in a group.

4. In “a style that starts in one city can spread and become a sign of youth or rebellion,” what does rebellion most likely mean?

- A. a new fabric pattern
- B. an action that opposes rules or traditions
- C. a formal ceremony
- D. a type of uniform

Answer: B

Explanation: The text links fashion with challenging social norms, so rebellion means opposing rules or traditions.

5. In “Clothing can also be a bridge between cultures,” what does bridge most likely mean in this context?

- A. physical structure over water
- B. a tool for sewing
- C. a connection that brings different cultures together
- D. a type of hat

Answer: C

Explanation: The text describes clothing as something that connects different cultures, so *bridge* means connection.