

ARE YOU A GOOD READER?



INDICADORES DE LOGROS:

- Entiende el objetivo del texto, a través de las diferentes preguntas tipo ICFES.
- Identifica y entiende la estructura del texto.
- Reflexiona y consolida conocimiento sobre lo que lee.
- Incrementa la velocidad en la lectura y desarrolla las habilidades del skimming, el scanning, anticipation and prediction.
- Desarrolla estrategias para incrementar el vocabulario.
- Comunica sus decisiones en forma oportuna. **(TOMA DE DECISIONES)**
- Explora y busca de manera conciente las variables que debe considerar antes de tomar una decisión o solucionar un problema.
- Considera posibilidades antes de elegir la más conveniente.



Leamos atentamente el siguiente texto

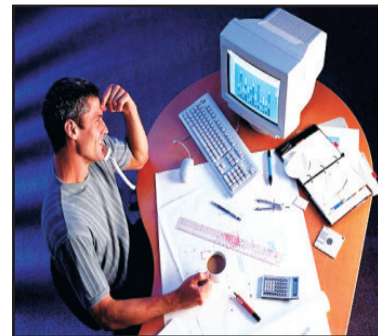
En el módulo de grado décimo, tuvimos la oportunidad de familiarizarnos con las diferentes preguntas tipo ICFES, a través de las competencias gramatical y textual. En las guías de grado undécimo, referentes al ICFES, vamos a ampliar la información en lo relacionado al rol que debe asumir el lector ante la lectura, a identificar los diversos objetivos de una lectura determinada, a analizar la estructura de un texto, a la vez que mejorar la velocidad de la lectura; es decir, vamos a incrementar nuestras habilidades en lo referente a la comprensión de situaciones, mediante las técnicas del skimming, scanning, predicting and anticipation.

READING FOR INFORMATION

Read the following passage and decide which of the titles below is the most suitable.

- The history of the telephone.
- Using light beams for the telephone.
- Alexander Bell's greatest invention.

Most people know that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. But not many know about another talking device he invented just four years later, in 1880. He called the device photophone.



«Photophone» comes from the Greek words for «light» and «sound». The photophone did not use electricity to carry sound over wires between two people. That's what a telephone does. Instead, the photophone used a beam of sunlight travelling through the air. With his invention, Bell could actually transmit human speech on a beam of



light. To do so, he spoke close to a thin mirror that was reflecting sunlight. The vibrations of his voice caused the mirror to vibrate, and the vibrating mirror caused the light to vibrate. The vibrating light hit a light-sensitive cell in a receiver placed some distance away. The cell changed the light patterns into electrical signals. Earphones changed the signals back into sounds.

Bell believed that his idea of talking on a beam of light would prove to be important. He often called the photophone his greatest invention.

Even though the photophone depended on a source of energy that was not constant – the sun – Bell wasn't a bit discouraged. He felt sure that people would one day talk using beams of light.

Two much recent developments made Bell's dream come true.

In 1960, a scientist built the laser. A laser produces a highly concentrated beam of light. Shortly afterward, other scientists developed a new kind of optical fibre. The optical fibre is a glass thread. The new fibre could carry light beams long distance- as far as several miles.

Activity:

After I have decided the most suitable title, I am going to answer these questions on my notebook, without using my dictionary:

1. What did Alexander Bell invent first, the telephone or the photo phone?
2. What did Bell use to carry sound, instead of electricity?
3. What was the disadvantage of this system?
4. What did Bell think of his invention?
5. How has modern science proved him right?



GETTING NEW INFORMATION

I meet with my team-work and try to understand orally these texts referring to some techniques about the idea of facing the reading. We discuss them and then we write down the main ideas in our notebooks.



Reading Tips: dealing with unknown vocabulary

No doubt when reading a text in English for the first time you come across quite a few new words. The instinct of most language learners in this situation is to take out their dictionaries. This is fine if there are only one or two unknown words, but if there more using the dictionary can disrupt the whole reading process.

Furthermore, words looked up in dictionary are rarely remembered for long.

Obviously, a dictionary is an indispensable tool for the language learner, but before opening it, ask yourself the following questions when faced with a new word:

1. What grammatical function does it perform?

Verb, noun, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, article.

2. What is the context of the word?

By reading the preceding and following sentences, or the whole paragraph, again, you may find clues to the meaning of the word that you missed the first time.

3. Finally, if you still don't know the meaning of the word, decide if it is real essential to your understanding of the text. Very often we come across words in our first language that we don't understand, but we continue reading because this unknown word does not stop us from enjoying or understanding a text.

Your turn:

Now, I read again the text written at A, referring to Alexander Graham Bell and translate it orally without using the dictionary. After that, I share information with my team-work.

The importance of reading – comprehension:

En esta fase es bueno recordar la definición de lo que significa la palabra lectura (reading). Una definición simple y provisional para este término que se vuelve tan trascendente en nuestro proceso de aprendizaje es: **«la lectura es un proceso donde se mira y se entiende lo que ha sido escrito»**. La palabra clave aquí es «entender», ya que el hecho de leer en voz alta sin entender no se tiene en cuenta como lectura.

Esta definición de lectura no significa que una persona que está aprendiendo una lengua extranjera, necesite entender todo en un texto. Un lector eficiente generalmente lee grupos de palabras, no palabra por palabra, Además, hace uso de lo que él necesita para obtener el significado de un texto determinado.



I translate the following information included in the chart, writing it on my notebook

REQUIREMENTS TO READ A TEXT:

1. Knowledge of the writing system.
2. Knowledge of the language.
3. Ability to interpret.
4. Appropriate knowledge of the world as assumed by the writer.
5. A reason for reading that determines his style.

Taking into consideration the previous ideas, I am going to read these texts without using the dictionary, and trying to read the questions in advanced, to grasp the idea in a very quickly way.

I am going to write down the answers on my notebook and after that, I am going to compare the answers with my team-work asking for teacher's help.

SKIMMING AND SCANNING

They are two very useful techniques that will help you become a better reader. When we are **skimming**, we go through a passage quickly, in order to get a general idea of what it is about. When we are **scanning**, we look through a text quickly in order to find a specific piece of information.

As you can see, these two activities are one by you every time you read a text. If you read attentively, you will get information easier.

Skimming:



Cuando yo estoy aplicando la técnica de «**Skimming**» muevo mis ojos rápidamente sobre el texto o pasaje y me pregunto: «Sobre qué trata el texto?». Identifico las partes importantes de la lectura: el comienzo, el final, los títulos, la primera oración de cada párrafo (si hay más de uno), el cual contiene la idea principal. En otras palabras, esta técnica consiste en examinar superficialmente.



Activity one

I read the following two passages very quickly. I don't read word by word. Then, I answer the question under each passage:

Passage number One



Scientists have established that influenza **viruses** taken from man can cause the **disease** in animals. In addition, man can catch the disease from animals. In fact, a great number of **wild birds** seem to carry the virus without showing any evidence of illness. Some scientists think that a large family of influenza viruses may have evolved in the bird **kingdom** – a group that has been on earth 100 million years and is able to carry the virus without contracting the disease.

There is even convincing evidence to show that virus **strains** are transmitted from place to place and from continent to continent by migrating birds.

a. What is the passage about?

- The history of birds.
- The history of man and the influenza virus.
- How man can catch the influenza virus from animals.
- How birds display the influenza virus.

Passage number two

It is true that in publicity one brand of **manufacture**, one firm competes with another, but it is also true that every publicity image confirms and **enhances** every other. Publicity is not merely an **assembly** of competing messages: it is a language in itself which is always being used to make the same general **proposal**. Within publicity, **choices** are offered between this cream and that cream, that car and this car, but publicity is a system only makes a single proposal. It proposes to each of us that we transform ourselves, or our lives, by buying something.



b. What is the passage about?



- The effects of publicity.
- Competition between systems.
- Making general proposals.
- The transformation of the world around us.

Scanning:

Cuando estoy aplicando la técnica del «**Scanning**», muevo mis ojos rápidamente sobre el texto, hasta que encuentre la información específica, ya sea una fecha, una figura,



un nombre, un lugar, entre otros. No es necesario leer el pasaje o el texto completo cuidadosamente, ya que como su nombre lo dice, estoy examinando el texto para buscar información específica.

Activity two:

I look again at the two previous passages that I have skimmed, and scan them. Then I answer these questions on my notebook:

- a. What can you say about the bird kingdom from the passage?
 - The bird kingdom has had the influenza virus for 100 millions years.
 - The bird kingdom did not exist 100 years ago.
 - The bird kingdom has existed for 100 million years.
 - The bird kingdom evolved after the earth was 100 millions years old.
- b. What does migrating birds transmit?
 - They transmit flu.
 - They transmit strange illnesses.
 - They don't transmit any disease.
 - They transmit virus strains.
- c. What does that language publicity do?
 - It makes one general proposal.
 - It transforms all of us.
 - It enhances everyone's lives.
 - It assembles confusing messages.





d. Does a publicity image confirm every other?

- No, it doesn't confirm every other.
- Yes, it confirms and enhances every other.
- Yes, it confirms all the products.
- No, it only competes with another

After I have answered these questions I compare the answers with my team group. Then I make the list on my notebook writing down the unknown words and trying to deduce their meaning.

ANTICIPATION AND PREDICTION:

They are two basic reading skills that we use to guess or predict how a passage will be developed.

Anticipation:

Antes de leer un pasaje, nosotros esperamos encontrar ciertos datos en él. Por ejemplo el título nos puede indicar algunas ideas previas sobre el texto. Estos pueden ser respuestas a ciertas preguntas que están en nuestra mente sobre el tema o las ideas que nos interesan.



Passage Number Three:

The following passage is about the origins of baseball. Before you look at the passage, check any of the ideas a), b), c) or d) listed below that you would expect to find in a passage about the origins of baseball.

I meet with my teamwork and answer on my notebook these questions, sharing information with my partners:

What do you expect to find in a passage about the origins of baseball?

- a. How many people went to baseball games this year?
- b. How it started in America one hundred and fifty years ago?
- c. When the first professional baseball team appeared?
- d. Why baseball is also a popular game?

Now read the passage and see if what you anticipated is correct.



The origins of baseball probably stretched back to 1839, when Abner Doubleday, a civil engineering student, laid out a diamond-shaped field at Cooperstown, New York, and attempted to standardize the rules governing the playing of such games as town ball and four old cat, the ancestors of baseball. By the end of the Civil War, interest in the game had grown rapidly. Over 200 teams or clubs existed, some of which toured the country playing rivals. They belonged to a national association of «Baseball Players» that had proclaimed a set of standard rules. These teams were amateurs or semi-professionals, but as the game waxed in Cincinnati Red Stockings, appeared in 1869. Other cities soon fielded professional teams, and in 1876 the present National League was organized. Soon a rival league appeared, the American Association. Competition between the two was intense, and in 1883 they played a postseason contest, the first «world series».

Prediction:



- Cuando nosotros estamos leyendo, hacemos predicciones permanentemente o adivinamos lo que sucederá en el próximo pasaje.
 - En la medida en que vamos leyendo el pasaje, nos damos cuenta si esas suposiciones son ciertas o no.
 - Después de empezar a leer el pasaje, nosotros encontramos «pistas» que nos pueden predecir que va a suceder a continuación.
- Estas pistas pueden estar en el significado, en la estructura gramatical de una frase o en su vocabulario.

Activity three:

In the exercise that follows, I will see sentences about pesticides and pest control. All these sentences put together form a paragraph about pesticides and pest control. Read the first sentence followed by the four ways (a), (b), (c) and (d) in which the paragraph may continue. Choose one- this is your prediction. Then read the next sentence and check if your prediction was right or wrong.

1. One major problem facing the further development of no chemical methods of pest control is their specificity. Because these methods usually are effective against only one kind of pest, . . .

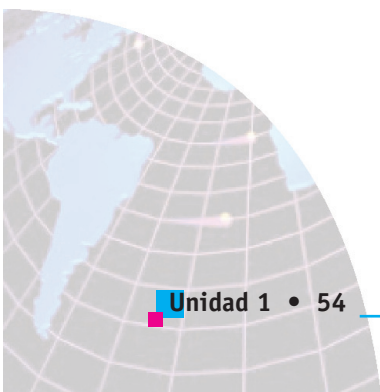


Predict

- (a) Crops still require chemical or other treatment to handle threats from other species of pests.
 - (b) Scientists are searching for one particular nonchemical method which can control pests.
 - (c) Scientists have stopped the development of nonchemical methods.
 - (d) Other species of pest are breeding more rapidly.
2. The second important issue for nonchemical (and chemical) control methods is the possibility that health or environmental hazards may be introduced which . . .

Predict

- (a) Cause a breakdown in the balance of nature.
 - (b) Cause a decline in the world's population.
 - (c) Have effects at least as severe as those methods they are intended to replace.
 - (d) Severely affect the world's climate.
3. This is particularly true in the case of hormonal and chemical sterilization techniques. The third major problem is the cost of developing non chemical methods because . . .
- (a) The normal control techniques are extremely complicated.
 - (b) Since each product will affect one kind of pest, the marked will be limited.
 - (c) The materials are difficult to acquire.
 - (d) The original research is very expensive,





Activity one

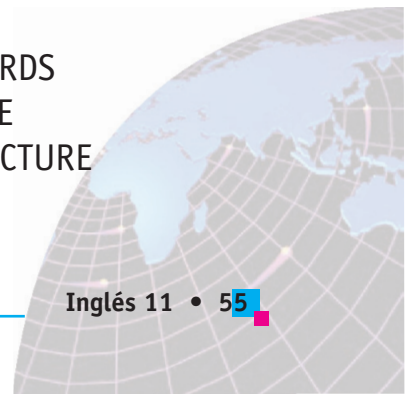
I am going to write down the corresponding word taken from passages one and two, at BC stage, taking into consideration the definition. This activity can be done without dictionary.

- a. The body of descendants of a common ancestor. A variety of domestic animal or cultivated plant:
- b. An ultramicroscopic infectious agent that replicates only within the cells of living hosts:
- c. One of the three broad divisions of natural objects: the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms:
- d. A disordered or abnormal condition of an organ or other part of the organism; illness:
- e. Warm-blooded, egg laying vertebrate having feathers and forelimbs modified into wings which are not tamed or domesticated:
- f. To make by hand or machinery, especially on a large scale:
- g. To increase the value, attractiveness, or quality of
- h. A group of persons gathered together. The putting together of parts, as a complex machinery:
- i. An alternative, a variety from which you choose:
- j. To offer for consideration. To make an offer:

VIRUSES
 ASSEMBLY
 PROPOSAL
 STRAIN
 CHOICE



KINGDOM
 DISEASE
 WILD BIRDS
 ENHANCE
 MANUFACTURE





Now we are going to read the following article, without the dictionary. Let's apply the techniques that we have learned.

10 Ways to reduce stress at work.

Productivity drives², efficiency, initiatives, company cutbacks, mergers³ ... while the modern workplace is producing more for less, recent research has indicated that increasing worker output⁴ is being accompanied by increased stress. However by following a few simple techniques you can effectively lower tension.



- 1. Personalize your work space:** By personalizing your workspace you create an atmosphere in which it is comfortable to work. This can help to increase your productivity. Whatever you decide to do, it is important to select items appropriate to your company's culture.
- 2. Start the day in a positive way:** Try to be positive about going to work. Research has indicated that a positive attitude helps to reduce stress and conflict in the workplace.
- 3. Prioritise your tasks:** Set a list of priorities each day. Prioritising your tasks will help to reduce stress by ensuring that the most important things are done first which helps to avoid emergencies and unnecessary pressure.
- 4. Achieve a task a day:** When you set your priorities make sure you include at least one task which you will be able to complete in that day. Even if it is a very small task and there are several complex tasks you will be working on, completing one thing each day will help you feel a sense of achievement and satisfaction.
- 5. Exercise your body:** Try to do some exercise at least once a day. A twenty minute stroll⁵ at lunch will not only reduce stress but could also help you to live longer.
- 6. Exercise your eyes:** In the modern world it is not enough to only exercise your body. With the advent of computers and the necessity in the modern office to sit

² Drive (in this context) campaign.

³ Merger: process in which two companies join together and become one company.

⁴ Output: production.

⁵ Stroll: walk for pleasure.



looking at screen for hours on end, it is also important to exercise your eyes. There is little doubt that computers have helped increase productivity and efficiency. Unfortunately there is a very negative side effect from excessive computer use- bad eyesight. By staring⁶ into the distance for one minute every hour you can greatly reduce the likelihood⁷ of suffering eye damage. It is just as important to exercise your eyes as your body.

7. Take regular breaks: Most people can only maintain effective concentration for 40 minutes. Regular and short periods of rest (breaks) will help you to be at your productive best. It will also help to approach problems from a different perspective after a break.



8. Eat healthy food: Eating healthy food can not only increase the length of your life, it also helps to reduce stress. The traditional Mediterranean diet is recommended. Animal fats⁸ and excessive alcohol intake should be avoided.

9. Avoid conflict: Try to find solutions not confrontation. Be flexible and try to maintain positive relationships with your colleagues.

10. Sleep: Many people believe that they only need five or six hours sleep a night. This may be so for a lucky few but the reality is that most of us need between eight and ten hours sleep a night.

By following the above simple hints you will find that your work life quickly improves and that you are far better able to manage your stress.

(Taken from: Think in English now The monthly magazine for improving your English)

I have finished this handout,
I am going to share these activities
with my teacher.

⁶ **To stare:** look for a long time

⁷ **Likelihood:** probability

⁸ **Animal fats:** Oily substances derived from animals



ESTUDIO Y ADAPTACIÓN DE LA GUÍA

