

## TEXT COMPREHENSION

### (COMPREENSÃO DE TEXTO)

Em inglês, assim como em outras línguas, a leitura é uma habilidade que pode ser desenvolvida independentemente do aprendizado da fala, da escrita e da audição. Para se entender um texto escrito em inglês, não há necessidade de saber todas as palavras e todas as estruturas de gramática presentes no texto. O mais importante é conseguir entender a idéia geral do texto, ou seja, saber qual é o tema e sua mensagem principal. Para isso, basta aprender e aplicar algumas técnicas de leitura para poder explorar o texto de modo a compreendê-lo da melhor forma possível.

A seguir estão listadas as técnicas para leitura e compreensão de textos em inglês.

1. **Predicting** – Com essa técnica você vai tentar descobrir, antes de ler o texto, o assunto tratado nele. Para isso você deve direcionar sua atenção para o título e o formato do texto. Observe qualquer figura, ilustração, título e subtítulo que acompanhe o texto. Assim você poderá adivinhar que tipo de texto e qual o assunto que ele trata.

2. **Vocabulário conhecido** – Ao estudar inglês aprendemos um vocabulário básico que vai sendo ampliado à medida que os estudos da língua vão avançando. Assim, muitas palavras presentes em qualquer texto são bastante conhecidas. Por exemplo, I (eu), the (o, os, a, as), and (e), of (de, do, da); além de outras que ficam gravadas em nossa memória.

3. **Cognates** – Cognates ou Cognatos são palavras semelhantes na ortografia e no sentido em português e inglês. Ao descobrir os cognatos você já saberá uma parte do vocabulário presente no texto já que os cognatos correspondem a 20% de todas as palavras encontradas em um texto. Porém deve-se ter cuidado, pois há os chamados **False Cognates** (Falsos Cognatos) que são palavras que se assemelham na grafia, nas duas línguas, mas possuem significados bem diferentes. (Observe a lista com os principais falsos cognatos).

4. **Contexto** – Ao ler um texto, podemos nos deparar com palavras totalmente desconhecidas. Quando isso acontecer, é importante procurar pistas sobre o significado dessas palavras dentro do próprio texto. Por exemplo, um sinônimo, uma definição ou explicação antes ou depois da palavra desconhecida,

figuras que ilustram o que essa palavra significa. Assim, sem a ajuda do dicionário, podemos deduzir o significado dessas palavras pelo contexto.

5. **Gramática** – A gramática também pode ajudar a descobrir o significado de palavras desconhecidas em um texto. Ao identificar a classe gramatical (substantivo, verbo, adjetivo, pronome, advérbio) ou a função que a palavra exerce na frase (sujeito, objeto) irá facilitar a descoberta do significado da palavra que você não conhece.

Essas técnicas podem ajudar a identificar o verdadeiro significado das palavras desconhecidas em um texto, porém sempre que for possível ou necessário consulte o **dicionário** para se certificar de que a correspondência entre as palavras está correta.

#### 1. TEXT 1 (TEXTO 1)

##### English, a global language

Why does everybody study English? What makes it a global language? English is the language that facilitates communication in thousands of individual contacts made daily all over the world. It is used in air, land and sea communication, in information technology, sports, TV, movies, science, politics, music... English is necessary to surf and chat on the internet, to e-mail people around the world, to read international books, magazines, announcements, ads, song lyrics, instructions, manuals, scientific journals, etc. The following graph shows the use of English all over the world.

	<p>1. <b>The inner circle</b> – places where English is the first language: The USA, Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>2. <b>The outer circle</b> – countries where English is used as a second language: Singapore, India, Malawi, and over fifty other countries/territories.</p> <p>3. <b>The expanding circle</b> – nations where the importance of English as an international language is recognised: China, Japan, Greece, Poland, Brazil and many others.</p>
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**Vocabulary:**

ad – propaganda all over – por todo o, em todo o  
 chat – conversar country – país  
 daily – diariamente inner – interno  
 land – terra language – língua  
 outer – externo sea – mar

- 1 Relacione as colunas e depois marque a alternativa com a sequência correta:
- (1) Thousands of individual contacts...
  - (2) Over fifty countries/territories...
  - (3) The following graph shows...
  - (4) The expanding circle...
  - (5) English is necessary to read announcements, ads... ( ) O círculo em expansão...
- ( ) Milhares de contatos individuais...
- ( ) O inglês é necessário para ler anúncios, propagandas...
- ( ) Mais de cinquenta países/territórios...

- ( ) O gráfico a seguir mostra... a)
- 2 – 1 – 4 – 3 – 2
- b) 4 – 1 – 5 – 2 – 3
- c) 1 – 5 – 3 – 2 – 4
- d) 4 – 2 – 1 – 5 – 3

- 2 De acordo com o texto, julgue C (certo) ou E (errado):
- (1) Everybody studies English nowadays.
  - (2) English is a global language because it is used in all countries of the world.
  - 3 The language of air and sea communication is English.
  - 4 People are studying English at school, to surf and chat on the internet.
  - 5 Brazil and Greece are countries where English is used as an international language.

- <sup>1</sup> Marque a alternativa correta. In India, English is \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) the second language.
  - b) the mother tongue of people.
  - c) an important language.
  - d) an international language.

**2. TEXT 2 (TEXTO 2)**

I am an engineer. I'm a civil engineer. My brother is a doctor of medicine. He's a pediatrician. My sister is a secretary and my father is a lawyer. Our salaries are rather good, they are above average. My brother and my sister are at work now. My father and I are at home. We are on vacation.

**Vocabulary:**

above – acima at  
 work – no trabalho  
 average – média  
 lawyer – advogado  
 rather – razoavelmente

- 1 Qual dos membros da família relacionados abaixo não foi citado no texto? a) irmã.  
b) pai.  
c) irmão.  
d) mãe.

- 2 O termo destacado da frase “My father and I are at home” pode ser substituído por qual pronome pessoal abaixo? a) He.  
b) I.  
c) We.  
d) They.

- 3 Analisando os substantivos abaixo, marque a alternativa que possui o plural correto das palavras: brother – secretary – father – doctor  
a) brothers – secretaries – fathers – doctors  
b) brotheres – secretarys – fatheres – doctores  
c) brother – secretaryes – fatheries – doctories  
d) brothers – secretays – fatheres – doctores

**1. TEXT 3 (TEXTO 3)**

**Sell your car and buy a bike!**



Bicycles are very popular today in many countries. Many people use bicycles for exercise. But exercise is only one of the reasons why bikes are popular. Another reason is money. Bicycles do not cost much money. You do not need any gas to make them go. They are easy and cheap to fix.

In cities, many people prefer bicycles to cars. With a bicycle, they never have to wait in traffic, they don't have any problem to find a place to park. And finally, bikes can't cause any pollution!

- 1 Qual é o tempo dos verbos do título?  
a) Simple Present.  
b) Imperative.  
c) Present Continuous.  
d) Infinitive.

- 2 De acordo com o texto, marque a alternativa correta.  
a) Bikes cause pollution.  
b) Bikes are expensive.  
c) In many countries, bikes are popular.  
d) Bikes are not economical.

- 3 De acordo com o texto, identifique a alternativa incorreta.  
a) It's necessary to use gas to make bikes go.  
b) It's easy to fix a bike.  
c) It's easy to find a place to park a bike.  
d) We don't have problems in traffic when we use bikes.

- 4 Marque a alternativa que completa corretamente a frase “Many cities prefer bicycles to cars, because \_\_\_\_\_”.  
a) they don't cause any pollution.  
b) they have to wait in traffic.  
c) they have many problems to find a place to park.  
d) they cost much money.

- 5 De acordo com o texto, a palavra em destaque na frase “They are easy and cheap to fix” está substituindo a palavra: a) bikes.  
b) traffic.  
c) pollution.  
d) reason.

- 6 Marque a alternativa onde foi feita a análise morfológica correta dos termos destacados na frase “With a bicycle, they never have to wait in traf- fic”.  
a) artigo definido – verbo – pronome pessoal – verbo.  
b) artigo indefinido – substantivo – pronome pessoal – verbo.  
c) artigo indefinido – substantivo – verbo – pronome pessoal.  
d) artigo definido – verbo – pronome pessoal – substantivo.

#### 4. TEXT 4 (TEXTO 4)

##### **We are all housekeepers!**

Plant a tree... Use recycled paper... Don't waste fuel... Save water... Keep your engine well adjusted... Walk... Don't smoke... Don't wear fur... Use biodegradable products. In this way we can keep our house in order.

(Time, April 27, 1992)

##### **Vocabulary:**

engine – motor fuel –  
combustível fur – pelo  
de animal in this way –  
deste modo to waste –  
desperdiçar to save –  
economizar to keep –  
manter  
to wear – usar

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- 1 Quantas ordens ou pedidos há no texto?  
a) eight.  
b) nine.  
c) ten.  
d) seven.
- 
- 2 Qual dos itens abaixo representa uma medida de economia?  
a) Save water.  
b) Don't wear fur.  
c) Don't smoke.  
d) Plant a tree.
- 
- 3 Analisando a frase "In this way we can keep our house in order", a palavra "house" se refere: a)  
aos produtos biodegradáveis.  
b) ao governo.  
c) ao mundo.  
d) ao nosso corpo.
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- 4 O texto aborda algumas medidas a serem tomadas:  
a) apenas pelo governo.  
b) apenas pelos ambientalistas.  
c) por todos.  
d) apenas por você.
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#### 5. TEXT 5 (TEXTO 5)

##### **Biodiversity**

Biodiversity is the sum of all species on the planet. Some of these species contain important substances that treat several diseases. The most relevant thing about biodiversity is that the rich North needs it and the poor South has it.

One of the ways to promote a sustainable development is to pay the poor nations to save the forests that they still have. Resources can be extracted but not exhausted. Thus, the environment can be preserved.

The Earth belongs to all mankind. Everybody needs to help in the protection of the planet. And there is much to do. We have to fight pollution in all its forms to avoid acid rain, the greenhouse effect, and the death of species, rivers, lakes and seas.

(Adapted from Newsweek, June, 1992)

- 1 De acordo com o texto, a biodiversidade é:  
a) a mistura das espécies que tratam diversas doenças.  
b) a soma de todos os planetas.  
c) o conjunto de todas as substâncias das espécies.  
d) o conjunto de todas as espécies animais e vegetais.
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- 2 A variedade biológica:  
a) existe no norte.  
b) falta no norte.  
c) falta no sul.  
d) enriquece o norte.
- 
- 3 O meio ambiente pode ser preservado:  
a) pelo aumento das florestas nos países ricos.  
b) com o auxílio financeiro das nações ricas aos países pobres.  
c) através do desenvolvimento das nações pobres.  
d) pela interrupção da extração de recursos nas nações pobres.
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- 4 A proteção do planeta depende:  
a) de todos nós.
-

- b) da preservação das florestas.
- c) dos países pobres.
- d) do empenho das grandes indústrias.

- 5 Uma consequência da poluição não mencionada no texto é:
- a) a alteração climática.
  - b) a chuva ácida.
  - c) o efeito estufa.
  - d) o desaparecimento das espécies.

- 6 Complete os termos abaixo com os demonstrativos that ou those e em seguida marque a sequência correta.

\_\_\_\_\_ species.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ planet.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ diseases. \_\_\_\_\_  
 substances.

- a) that – those – that – those.
- b) those – that – those – those.
- c) those – those – that – that.
- d) that – that – those – those.

#### Text for questions 1-2

1. Read the article and tick (ü) a, b or c.

#### Looking for love

*Looking for Love* is an agency that finds partners for

single people of any age. Read about Lisa.

My name's Lisa. I'm 25 years old and I'm from Manchester. I'm not married and I'm looking for love. I'm a journalist on a local newspaper, which means I write stories about local political issues and sometimes I interview politicians. I like my job, but I'd like to work on a national newspaper one day. That's because I want to have the opportunity to work abroad.

I have a small group of friends who I've known for years. I even went to school with some of them! I'm not really extrovert but I do like going out and having fun. We usually go out to parties, nightclubs, and restaurants. I also like cooking and I make great pasta! My ideal night in is a good meal, a glass of wine, and a DVD. I like

thrillers much more than I like romantic comedies!

I'm not very sporty, but I like to keep fit. I stopped smoking last year and now I go running twice a week and I sometimes go to the gym at weekends. I eat lots of fruit and vegetables and I try not to have red meat or too much coffee. At work, I drink water or tea.

I prefer men who are interested in serious issues because I like talking about politics and what's happening in the world. However, I also like men with a good sense of humour. These characteristics are more important to me than physical appearance.

Please contact *Looking for Love* if you think you're the kind of person I'm looking for!

I. In her job, Lisa has to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) ( ) travel to other countries
- b) ( ) write about politics
- c) ( ) interview politicians abroad

II. Lisa met all her friends \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) ( ) at school
- b) ( ) at work
- c) ( ) a long time ago

III. Lisa goes out \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) ( ) every night
- b) ( ) to quiet places
- c) ( ) with her friends

IV. Lisa doesn't like \_\_\_\_\_ so much.

- a) ( ) politics
- b) ( ) love stories
- c) ( ) Italian food

V. Lisa exercises \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) ( ) every weekend
- b) ( ) more than once a week
- c) ( ) rarely

VI. Lisa doesn't often have \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) ( ) vegetables
- b) ( ) red meat
- c) ( ) tea

VII. Lisa prefers \_\_\_\_\_ men.

- a) (     ) good-looking
- b) (     ) hard-working
- c) (     ) funny

VIII. Lisa is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) (     ) married
- b) (     ) divorced
- c) (     ) single

2. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a) Lisa doesn't want to change her job. (     )
- b) She goes out with some of her school friends. (     )
- c) She thinks she is extrovert. (     )
- d) She enjoys watching films. (     )
- e) She plays a lot of team sports. (     )
- f) She sometimes smokes. (     )
- g) She drinks a lot of coffee. (     )
- h) She likes talking about serious things. (     )
- i) *Looking for Love* is an organization only for young people. (     )

Text for questions 3-4

#### **Immigrants and Public Schools**

Public schools in the United States helped immigrants in different ways. First the schools gave the children a free education. This meant that many young people became better educated than their parents and had more chances for better jobs. In addition, many schools had evening classes for adults.

3. Based on the text, it is correct to say that

- a) (     ) Public schools in the United States were only for adults.
- b) (     ) Parents did not have to pay for their children's education in public schools.
- c) (     ) Adults could go to public schools in the United States.
- d) (     ) Parents were generally better educated than their children.
- e) (     ) There were no jobs for immigrants.

4. What information is in the text?

- I. The type of jobs found leaving school.
- II. The absence of evening classes for adults.

III. The precise number of immigrants that used to go to school in the United States.

IV. The different ways public schools helped immigrants.

- a) I and III are correct.
- b) II and III are correct.
- c) I, II and III are Correct
- d) III and IV are correct.
- e) all of them are correct.