

# Read like a... Linguist



Discover the context of the writing

Get clues from the title, the introduction, and any images – what do you think the text will be about?



Look for clues in the text

Scan the text for proper nouns and numbers – how do these build up your knowledge of what the text is about?



Look for vocabulary clues in the text

Read through to find cognates (*words that look the same in French/Spanish and English*) and look for words you know – what do these add to your understanding of the text?



Identify the subject of the verb

Who is doing the action? Look for the pronouns in French (*je, tu, il, elle, on, nous, vous, ils, elles*) or the verb endings in Spanish (eg. *o, as, a, amos,áis, an*) to work this out.



Identify the tense of the verb

When is the action taking place – in the past, present or future? Look for time phrases to help you work this out.



Coping with unfamiliar language

From the parts that you understand, see what else you can make intelligent guesses about to try and add to your understanding.



Check to see if it makes sense

Read what you think the text means to yourself. If it doesn't make sense, think again.

