

A Read the text below in which Juana talks about reading. Then answer the questions that follow.

No leo a menudo, pero pienso que los libros de ciencia ficción son los más interesantes porque te hacen imaginar cosas extrañas. Otros libros son aburridos y por eso solo leo de vez en cuando.

Use a dictionary to work out the best way of translating the word *solo* in the text. It can be an adjective and an adverb, so check its two meanings in English. Which translation of *solo* do you think should be used here?

1 How many of these English frequency expressions have been used in Spanish in the text? Circle the ones that appear.

always from time to time rarely often never once a week

2 How many of these English connectives have been used in Spanish in the text? Underline the ones you find.

because however but I think that
 so although in conclusion
 and

★ It's important to be able to recognise if a word is a noun, an adjective, a verb, etc. so that you can find the right translation for it in a dictionary. Be careful when you are using a dictionary to check that you are looking at the correct entry for the word.

B Complete the translation of the text from activity A.

I don't _____ science fiction books are
 _____ they make you _____
 _____. Other books are boring _____ I _____ read _____
 _____.

★ Use your general knowledge as well as your knowledge of Spanish to help you figure out a translation. For example, look at the sentence 'science fiction books are... they make you...': from what you know about science fiction, what might a science fiction book make you do?

C Read the text in which Daniel talks about poetry and answer the questions.

A mi amigo le encanta la poesía, pero en mi opinión leerla es una completa pérdida de tiempo. Primero, creo que es aburrida y, además, a veces no tiene sentido. Por otro lado, me gusta escribir poesía ya que es divertido ser creativo.

1 Note down what you think the text is about in general.

2 Does Daniel agree with his friend? How do you know?

3 In the last sentence Daniel uses an expression which shows he has an opposite opinion to what he has said before. What expression does he use to show this?

D Translate the text from activity C.

★ When you are unsure of the meaning of a word or expression, look at it closely to see if there is any part of it that is familiar to you and that may help you to understand. For example, in *leerla* can you see a word that you already know?

Answers

A

1 often, from time to time

2 but, I think that, because, and, so

B

I don't read often but I think that science fiction books are the most interesting because they make you imagine strange things. Other books are boring and so I only read from time to time.

C

1 The text is about reading and writing poetry. Daniel talks about his friend's opinion and his own opinions.

2 No, Daniel does not agree with his friend. He uses the connective *pero* (but) and this tells us that his opinion is different.

3 He uses *por otro lado* (on the other hand). This is a very useful expression when giving opinions about something that has good points and bad points.

D

Sample answer

My friend loves poetry, but in my opinion reading it is a complete waste of time. Firstly, I think it's boring and furthermore sometimes it doesn't make sense. On the other hand, I like writing poetry because it's fun being creative.