



Thinking Skills

Introduction

If you want to read well in English, you must think in English as you read. If you think in another language and translate from the English, you will always have difficulty with comprehension. Understanding the words and the grammar is not enough. You need to be able to follow the *ideas* in English.

The exercises that follow will help you to develop your ability to follow ideas and think in English.

Example a:

In this example, the final sentence is not complete. Try to think of an ending which would complete the sentence logically. Then look at the four possible endings below the paragraph. Decide which is the best ending and circle the letter.

In the past, if you wanted to eat Japanese food, you had to go to Japan. Now, you can find Japanese restaurants all around the world, from New York to Rome or Sydney. In the same way, Italian food used to be found only in Italy. Now, Italian restaurants can be found everywhere, from Moscow to Tokyo or Sao Paulo. People everywhere are learning to enjoy the foods of other countries. Someday, it may be possible to

- a. eat Italian food in Tokyo.
- b. eat only traditional food in each country.
- c. eat every kind of food in every country.
- d. eat only Japanese food.

Which is the best ending?

Explanation: Ending *a* is not correct, because of the word *someday* in the last sentence. We know from the paragraph that people already eat Italian food in Tokyo.

Ending *b* is not correct because we know from the paragraph that many different kinds of food are available in most countries.

Ending *c* is correct because the main idea of the paragraph is that different national foods are being eaten in more and more countries.

Ending *d* is not correct, because it is the opposite of what the paragraph says.

Example b:

The "Potato Famine" was a terrible period in Irish history. In the early 19th century, many Irish people were very poor. They had little to eat except potatoes. Then, in the 1830s, a disease killed most of the potato plants in Ireland. With no potatoes to eat, millions of Irish people

- a. got sick.
- b. ate meat instead.
- c. were much happier.
- d. died of hunger.

Which is the best ending?

Compare your choice with another student. Explain how you got your answer.