

## SCENE 34 • GRAMMAR

# Sé cocinar, puedo ayudar

Saber, ability and explaining a reason

5 Exercises · Duration: 15 min.

The weather and what to wear

Spanish

*Read & listen online* ↗



## A skill or a possibility

**Saber + infinitive** is knowing how: **Sé cocinar**. **Poder + infinitive** is being able in the situation: **Puedo ayudar el sábado**. For factual knowledge, **sé** also means I know. Keep the accent in **sé**.

### SABER IN THE PRESENT

| Person                  | Form    | Meaning                       |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| yo                      | sé      | I                             |
| tú                      | sabes   | you, familiar singular        |
| él / ella / usted       | sabe    | he / she / you politely       |
| nosotros / nosotras     | sabemos | we                            |
| vosotros / vosotras     | sabéis  | you, familiar plural in Spain |
| ellos / ellas / ustedes | saben   | they / you politely plural    |

## Why and because

A question uses **¿Por qué?** (two words, with an accent). An answer uses **porque** (one word): **Porque tengo que trabajar**. **Por eso** means that is why/so: **Tengo que madrugar**. **Por eso me acuesto pronto**. These let you explain a decision simply.

**GRAMMAR****G1) CHOOSE THE FORM FOR THE MESSAGE**

Choose the right word for the gap.

**1 Yo \_\_\_\_\_ cocinar.**

- ☐ A sé
- ☐ B se
- ☐ C sabe

Meaning: I know how to cook.

**2 Vosotros \_\_\_\_\_ bailar.**

- ☐ A sabemos
- ☐ B saben
- ☐ C sabéis

Meaning: You know how to dance.

**3 No vengo \_\_\_\_\_ tengo que trabajar.**

- ☐ A porque
- ☐ B por eso
- ☐ C por qué

Meaning: I am not coming because I have to work.

**4 ¿\_\_\_\_\_ no vienes?**

- ☐ A Por eso
- ☐ B Por qué
- ☐ C Porque

Meaning: Why are you not coming?

**G2) COMPLETE A USEFUL EXCHANGE**

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

saben sabe sabemos

Nosotras \_\_\_\_\_ cantar. Ellos \_\_\_\_\_ bailar.

Meaning: We can sing. They can dance.

sé sabes sabe

Tú \_\_\_\_\_ cocinar, pero Javier no \_\_\_\_\_.

Meaning: You can cook, but Javier cannot.

Porque Por eso

Tengo frío. \_\_\_\_\_ llevo una chaqueta.

Meaning: I feel cold. That is why I wear a jacket.

### G3) PUT THE MESSAGE TOGETHER

Put the words in order.

1 el Puedo sábado. ayudar

Meaning: I can help on Saturday.

2 qué que ¿Por tienes madrugar?

Meaning: Why do you have to get up early?

3 puedo No pero bailar, aprender. sé

Meaning: I cannot dance, but I can learn.

#### G4) CONNECT THE MESSAGE AND ITS MEANING

Match the pairs.

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ① sé cocinar                | Ⓐ I can help on Saturday |
| ② puedo ayudar el<br>sábado | Ⓑ I know how to cook     |
| ③ por eso                   | Ⓒ that is why            |

**G5) CHECK THE CONTRAST IN A NEW CONTEXT**

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

sabes   puedo   sé

No \_\_\_\_\_ bailar, pero \_\_\_\_\_ aprender.

Meaning: I do not know how to dance, but I can learn.