

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

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.

Meaning: I know how to cook.

1 Yo _____ cocinar.

- ☐ A sé
- ☐ B se
- ☐ C sabe

Meaning: You know how to dance.

2 Vosotros _____ bailar.

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

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

3 No vengo _____ tengo que trabajar.

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

Meaning: Why are you not coming?

4 ¿_____ no vienes?

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

G2) COMPLETE A USEFUL EXCHANGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

Meaning: We can sing. They can dance.

saben sabe sabemos

Nosotras _____ cantar. Ellos _____ bailar.

Meaning: You can cook, but Javier cannot.

sé sabes sabe

Tú _____ cocinar, pero Javier no _____.

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

Porque Por eso

Tengo frío. _____ llevo una chaqueta.

G3) PUT THE MESSAGE TOGETHER

Put the words in order.

Meaning: I can help on Saturday.

1 el Puedo sábado. ayudar

Meaning: Why do you have to get up early?

2 qué que ¿Por tienes madrugar?

Meaning: I cannot dance, but I can learn.

3

puedo

No

pero

bailar,

aprender.

sé

G4) CONNECT THE MESSAGE AND ITS MEANING

Match the pairs.

① sé cocinar

Ⓐ I can help on Saturday

② puedo ayudar el
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.

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

sabes puedo sé

No _____ bailar, pero _____ aprender.