

# SBS Foundation English 2024

## Tips for Grammar Cloze Passage

### 1. Read the Passage First:

Start by reading the whole passage to understand the **main idea**. This will help you figure out which words should go in the blanks to fit the context.

**Example:** If the passage is about someone's daily routine, you know the blanks will likely need words related to habits or activities.

### 2. Identify the Type of Word Needed:

Think about whether the blank needs **a noun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, or conjunction**. Knowing the type of word will help you narrow down your options.

**Example:**

- If the sentence reads "He is very \_\_\_\_\_ today," the blank likely needs an **adjective** (e.g., "happy", "tired").
- If it says, "He \_\_\_\_\_ his homework every day," the blank needs a **verb** (e.g., "does").

### 3. Look for Clues in the Passage:

**Pay attention to the words around the blank.** They can give you hints about the tense, singular/plural form, or the correct word.

**Example:**

- In "They \_\_\_\_\_ playing football yesterday," the word "yesterday" indicates a **past tense verb** (e.g., "were").

#### 4. Check Subject-Verb Agreement:

Make sure the **verb agrees with the subject**. For example, if the subject is singular, the verb should also be singular.

##### Example:

- "The dog **runs** in the park" (singular subject "dog" with singular verb "runs").
- "The dogs **run** in the park" (plural subject "dogs" with plural verb "run").

#### 5. Keep the Tense Consistent:

The tense should stay the same throughout the passage ***unless*** there's a reason for a change. Watch out for changes in time.

##### Example:

- If the passage begins in the present tense: "She **likes** to cook," the next sentence should also be in present: "She **prepares** meals every evening."
- A time change might look like this: "She **likes** to cook, but yesterday, she **ordered** food instead."

#### 6. Use Common Word Pairs:

Some words often go together (e.g., "***make a decision***", "***take a break***"). Knowing these pairs can help you fill in the blanks correctly.

##### Examples:

- "She decided to \_\_\_\_\_ a shower after a long day." (Answer: take)
- "I always try to \_\_\_\_\_ my best during exams." (Answer: do)
- "He is always \_\_\_\_\_ when his team loses a match." (Answer: upset)

## 7. Read the Passage Again:

After **filling in all** the blanks, **read the passage again** to check if it makes sense. This final read can help you spot any mistakes.

### Example:

- Original sentence: "She enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ piano in the evening."
- Filled in: "She enjoys **plays** piano in the evening."
- Upon reading the passage again, you notice that "enjoys **plays**" doesn't make sense because "enjoys" should be followed by a verb in its gerund form (i.e., ending in -ing). The correct phrase should be: "She enjoys **playing** piano in the evening."