



Blue Pineapple Language Trainer

Frequently Asked Questions

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How do the answers work in Blue Pineapple?

Blue Pineapple accepts answers based on the structure shown in the correct answer field. Understanding the formatting will help you see what the app expects.

Multiple correct answers (semicolon ;)

When answers are separated by semicolons, it means **there are multiple acceptable translations**.

You only need to type **one of them**.

Example:

generoso; generosa; generosi; generose

Any of these answers would be accepted.



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Optional words (parentheses ())

Words shown in parentheses are **optional**.

You may type the answer **with or without** the optional part.

Example:

(la) porta

Both answers are accepted:

porta

la porta

When parentheses and semicolons appear together

Sometimes parentheses contain several alternatives separated by semicolons.

This means the base phrase is optional, and if you include the optional part you may choose **any of the alternatives inside the brackets**.

Example:

il biglietto (del tram; dell'autobus; della metropolitana)

The following answers are all accepted:

il biglietto

il biglietto del tram

il biglietto dell'autobus

il biglietto della metropolitana

This structure allows the system to represent **related variations of the same phrase** without creating separate vocabulary entries.

Why Blue Pineapple uses this format

The semicolon / parentheses structure allows Blue Pineapple to:



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- represent several valid translations in one entry
- avoid duplicating vocabulary items
- allow flexible answers while still checking correctness

This keeps the vocabulary database compact while still reflecting **how languages are actually used**.

Gender matters

Where relevant, the correct **gendered form** must be used.

Examples:

il / la

o / a

un / una

Many language apps ignore gender, but Blue Pineapple deliberately includes it because gender is essential for forming correct sentences.

The aim is to learn the word **correctly from the start**.

Spelling and accents

Blue Pineapple checks the **correct spelling of words**, including accents where they are part of the language.

Examples:

ténis

città

acción

Accents are an important part of correct spelling in many languages and are required in written communication.

Typing accents on Android

Typing accented characters on Android is very easy once you know how.



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1. Install or enable the keyboard for the language you are learning.
On most Android devices this can be done through:
Settings → System → Languages & input → On-screen keyboard → Gboard → Languages
2. Add the language you want (for example Italian, Spanish, French or Portuguese).
2. When typing, **press and hold the base letter** to see the available accented versions.

Example:

Press and hold:

e

You will see options such as:

é è ê ë

Simply slide your finger to the correct character.

Switching keyboards

If you have multiple languages enabled, you can switch between them using the **globe icon** on the keyboard.

This automatically adjusts:

- accented characters
- spelling suggestions
- punctuation rules

for the selected language.

Tip

Once the correct keyboard is installed, typing accents quickly becomes second nature and helps you learn the **correct spelling of words from the beginning**.



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Why do I have to type the answers?

Blue Pineapple deliberately requires **typing the translation** rather than simply recognising the correct answer from a list.

Typing forces **active recall**, which is a much stronger learning technique than recognition.

Recognition (flashcards or multiple choice) is easier, but recall tends to produce **long-term retention**.

How does the learning system work?

Why do questions repeat?

Repetition is **intentional**.

Blue Pineapple uses a scoring system that makes you practice items you find difficult **more often**, which helps reinforce learning.

How does the scoring system work?

Every vocabulary item or verb begins with a **score of 0**.

The score changes depending on your answers.

Correct answer

+0.34

Example progression:

0 → 0.34 → 0.68 → 1.02 → etc

Incorrect answer

-1

Example:



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0 → -1

If you then answer correctly:

$$-1 + 0.34 = -0.66$$

Mastery

A question is considered **mastered when its score exceeds 1**.

Scores can rise to a maximum of **2**.

Why these numbers?

The system intentionally makes it easier to **lose progress than gain it**.

That means you must answer a question correctly **several times** to compensate for one mistake.

This encourages **true mastery rather than lucky guesses**.

How are questions selected?

When choosing what to ask next, Blue Pineapple prioritises:

1. Questions with the **lowest score**
2. Items you have previously answered incorrectly
3. Items that need reinforcement

This means the app constantly adapts to **your personal weaknesses**.

What do the dashboard statistics mean?

Example:

Tested: 12 / 16

Correct: 9

Needs Work: 3



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Mastered: 1

Tested

How many questions you have seen out of the total in that category.

Example:

12 / 16

You have been tested on **12 out of 16 items**.

Correct

Items whose score is **above 0**.

These are answers you are generally getting right.



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Needs Work

Items whose score is **below 0**.

These are questions you have recently answered incorrectly.

Mastered

Items whose score is **above 1**.

These are questions the system believes you have learned well.

Why doesn't the app explain my mistakes?

Blue Pineapple intentionally **shows the correct answer but does not provide detailed explanations**.

The reasoning is that **working out what you did wrong yourself helps cement the correct answer**.

This approach encourages deeper learning rather than passive correction.

Does the app speak the answers?

Yes.

When your device volume is turned on, the app will **speak the correct answer** using **text-to-speech in the appropriate language accent**.

This helps reinforce pronunciation alongside spelling.



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Why are accents required?

Accents are part of correct spelling in many languages.

For example:

ténis

café

acción

Learning them correctly is important, particularly for written communication.

On most smartphones, accents can be entered by **long-pressing a letter on the keyboard**.

Does Blue Pineapple track my scores?

The system records your learning progress to determine:

- what you need to practise
- what you have mastered
- what needs reinforcement

However, the system is designed primarily as a **personal learning tool**, not as a public leaderboard.

What should I practise first?

During testing it is recommended to start with **small vocabulary groups**, for example:

- Numbers
- Colours
- Basic nouns

Try to reach **mastery in one category** before moving on.

For verbs, a good starting point is the **present tense**.



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Why does Blue Pineapple focus on typing rather than flashcards?

Most language apps rely heavily on **recognition learning** (multiple choice or flashcards).

Blue Pineapple focuses on **recall learning**, which research shows is significantly more effective for long-term memory.

Typing the answer forces you to retrieve the word from memory rather than simply recognising it.
