








Conversation and ethics



iPads for Parrots?

Scientists have discovered that at some simple tasks some parrots perform as well as a five-year-old child. So, if parrots are as smart as five-year-olds, what does this mean for how we treat them as pets?

Team up with a conversation partner and discuss the following questions. Have some paper handy to write down any questions you still have. If you have time at the end, you could do your own research to find the answers.

-  What are some things a parrot needs to be happy and healthy at home?
-  How do you think a parrot feels if it is left alone for a long time? How much time should humans spend with their parrots each day?
-  Do you think an iPad is a good substitute for people spending time with their parrots?
-  Do you think cats and dogs also need toys and games to be happy? Why?
-  Is it as important that fish have things to play with in their tanks? Why or why not?

Parrot Fact File

- Parrots love social interaction. They respond playfully to laughter.
- They can mimic sounds and understand them. The world record holder is a parrot that learned 1,728 words.
- They might pluck their feathers out if bored or stressed.
- Parrots can live to more than 80 years old.
- They use tools to solve problems and complete tasks, like using a stick to scratch their own backs.



Do a drawing of a parrot using an iPad. What do you think a parrot's favourite game would be?



Word Origins and Families



Word Detectives

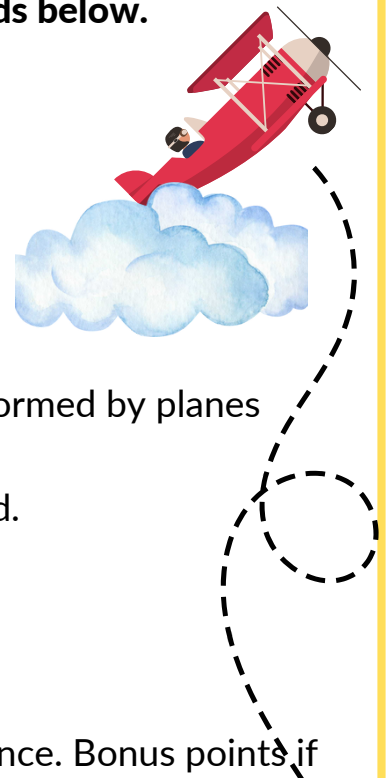


Today, we heard about China's new *maglev* train. *Maglev* is a portmanteau word (pronounced port-man-toe). Portmanteau words are formed by two words (or parts of words) being joined together to form a new word.

In *maglev*, the 'mag' part comes from *magnet*, and 'lev' comes from *levitate*, meaning to float above the surface. So we can deduce that the maglev train uses magnets to float above the surface. **We can be word detectives and use parts of a word that we know as clues to figure out what a word means.**

The mag lev train has an aerodynamic design allowing it to move easily through the air. The root 'aero' is used in lots of English words. It comes from a Greek word meaning 'air'. **Choose the correct meaning for each of the words below.**

- aeroplane A craft that can fly high into the air.
 A craft that can dive deep under the sea.
- aerosol A cream that you rub onto your body.
 A spray of liquid droplets into the air.
- aerobatics Entertaining tricks, like loops and rolls, performed by planes in the air.
 A type of bat that only crawls on the ground.
- aerophobia A fear of being stuck in an enclosed space.
 A fear of flying.



Choose one of the 'aero' words above and use it in a silly sentence. Bonus points if you can also include your own 'aero' word.
