



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 challenges might parrots face when trying to use a tablet, and how could we solve them?



Why do you think researchers are interested in studying how parrots interact with technology?



What could be some signs that a parrot is enjoying or not enjoying a tablet game?



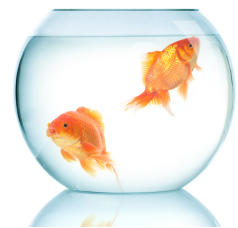
Discuss why it's important to monitor how long a parrot plays with a tablet. What could happen if they use it too much?



What responsibilities do people have when they decide to keep a parrot as a pet? Is it fair to keep a parrot in a cage? What are the pros and cons?

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 cats and dogs need the same amount of attention as parrots to be happy? Why or why not? Does the same level of responsibility apply to pet fish? Why or why not?

Imagine you have been asked to design a tablet-based game for a parrot. What would the game be like? What would the parrot have to do? If you have time, draw a screenshot from the game.



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.**

Together, examine these words from today's podcast, and a few extra thrown in for fun, and see if you can use root words or prefixes to find their meaning. We've done the first one for you.

	What is the root?	What the root means	We think the whole word means:
aerodynamic	aero	air	Something that can move easily through the air.
ultrafast			
kilometre			
visionary			

Pick two or three of the words above and use them in silly sentences. Bonus points if you can also include your own words with the same roots. Double bonus points if your sentences are about trains.

