


 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.



Why is it important to provide enriching experiences for animals like parrots?



How could technology specifically designed for animals differ from human technology? Discuss how the anatomy of a parrot influences the design of technology for them.



Do you think the use of technology by a parrot reduces the amount of interaction they need with a human carer? Explain your answer.



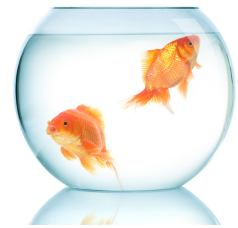
How could researchers measure whether technology is having a positive effect on a parrot's well-being?



How should pet owners balance the needs of their animals with their own daily commitments? Should the same principles of care and enrichment for parrots be applied to other pets like dogs and cats? 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.



Considering the needs of fish in an aquarium, discuss how ethical considerations for fish and other aquatic pets might differ from those for birds or mammals.

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? Draw a screenshot from your game and annotate it to explain why you have chosen the features you have included.



Word Origins and Families



Word Detectives



Today, we heard about China's new *maglev* train. *Maglev* is a portmanteau word (pronounced port-man-toe). 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 root 'aero' comes from a Greek word meaning 'air', and is used in lots of English words

Write a paragraph about someone riding on a superfast train and use as many 'aero' words as you can. Some suggestions are in the box on the right. You can also use your own.

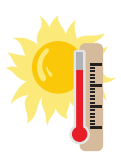
- aerodynamic
- aeroplane
- aerobatics
- aerosol
- aeronautics
- aerobics

You might know that **etymology** is the study of the origins of words. Many words that we use in English today have their roots in Ancient Greek or Latin languages. The etymology of the prefix 'hyper' comes from the Ancient Greek word hyper, meaning 'over' or 'above'. The word **hyperalert** means that someone is above a standard level of alertness and is very aware of their surroundings.

Let's explore some other Greek root words. Write down what you think the root means (we've given you a picture clue) and as many words as you can that use the root.

 astro _____

 hydro _____

 thermo _____