**Clarifying**

**Using the texts provided, or texts that you have at home, test out some of the strategies for clarifying unfamiliar words.**

Step one: read the word again.

Step two: look at the starting sound/letter.

Step three: check to see whether there are picture clues/illustrations.

Step four: read to the end of the sentence.

Step five: read to the end of the paragraph.

Step six: now that you know what the whole paragraph is about, could you make a guess?

Step seven: look for smaller words inside the big word.

Step eight: does the word remind you of a different word that you know?

Step nine: replace the word with another word that makes sense in the sentence.

Step ten: check a dictionary to see whether you were right.

**Clarifying Activity Sheet**

**TASK:**

Choose two texts that you think will have tricky words for both parent/carer and child.

Parent/carer and child should each highlight/underline a word that they think the other will find tricky. Use the prompts below to clarify the meaning of the word.

Parent/Carer

The word is:

Overall, the sentence the word is in is about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Overall, the paragraph the sentence is in is about \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A smaller word that is inside the tricky word is:

A word that I can replace the tricky word with and the

sentence still seems to make sense/has the same

meaning is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Overall, I think that the tricky word might mean

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Now check a dictionary (any paper/online dictionary is fine but remember to double check whether there is more than one definition listed.

The word

means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Were you right? Yes

No

Child

The word is:

Overall, the sentence the word is in is about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Overall, the paragraph the sentence is in is about \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A smaller word that is inside the tricky word is:

A word that I can replace the tricky word with and the

sentence still seems to make sense/has the same

meaning is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Overall, I think that the tricky word might mean

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Now check a dictionary (any paper/online dictionary is fine but remember to double check whether there is more than one definition listed.

The word

means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Were you right? Yes

No

**Plastic: Seabirds found eating plastic after issue raised by Blue Planet II**

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23 June 2018 IAN HUTTON

Experts visiting a remote island have found seabirds dying because they're too full of plastic to eat proper food.

**Deadly Diet**

The birds - flesh footed shearwaters - nest in burrows on Lord Howe Island, which is more than 600 kilometres off the east coast of Australia.

But when the parents go out hunting for food in the seas and bring back bits of fish and squid, scientists say they're also accidentally bringing back bits of plastic that are floating in the ocean.

**Health Problems**

The food gets digested and helps the baby birds grow, but the plastic just builds up in their stomachs leaving no room for food.

Many of them sadly die but marine scientists are working on the island to save the birds by flushing out their stomachs, a treatment which they say doesn't harm the birds.

**Activist Activity**

Meanwhile new website called Plastic Watch has been launched by the BBC to help people find out how they can best deal with plastics.

The team behind it say that they're hoping it will help people do more to protect the environment from plastic pollution.

**Blue Planet**

There's been loads more people talking about plastic and the environment since the TV nature programme Blue Planet II shocked a lot of people by showing how much plastic was in the oceans.

Sir David Attenborough says he's been "astonished" by the way people have responded to the issue following the wildlife series.

Adapted from http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/44586282

**Algeria turns OFF the internet**

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21 June 2018

**Algeria has turned off its internet for the whole country to try to stop cheating in school exams.**

**Internet Blackout**

The blackout will be in place for the whole of the exam season - from 20 - 25 June.

Nobody will be able to get online - via their mobile phone, tablet or computer for an hour after the start of each high school diploma exam to stop any leaks.

**Leaked Questions**

It's after questions were leaked online in 2016 both before and during tests.

Lots of people were found to have used those questions to cheat.

Last year, the authorities tried to stop it by shutting down social media access - but that was not thought to be tough enough.

**Social Media Ban**

Nouria Benghabrit is the Education Minister. She says Facebook will also be banned every day, all day between 20-25 June.

She says she's "not comfortable" with the decision, but says "we should not passively stand in front of such a possible leak".

**Security Measures**

Phones and tablets are also banned in exam halls. Metal detectors have been set up at their entrances to check no-one is trying to sneak one in.

CCTV cameras and programmes to jam mobile phones have also been installed at places where the exams are printed.

More than 700,000 students will sit the high school exams this week. They'll get their results from 22 July. Good luck guys!

Adapted from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/44564739>

**Plastic straws: Why McDonald's and other companies are scrapping them**

15 June 2018

**McDonalds has become the latest company to say they are going to stop using plastic straws**

The fast food restaurant will only use paper ones in all its UK and Ireland restaurants, starting from September.

Believe or not, they say they use 1.8 million straws a day in the UK! That's a lot of straws.

But McDonalds say the ban wont happen worldwide yet.

**Why are straws a problem?**

We use an estimated 8.5 billion plastic straws every year in the UK. [**They're among the top 10 items found in beach clean-ups.**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/42810179)

Most straws are made from plastics called polypropylene and polystyrene which, unless recycled, take hundreds of years to decompose and are only used for a very short time

Many end up in landfill and the oceans, and the BBC programme Blue Planet II showed the damage plastic can cause to marine wildlife.

**Who else is banning straws?**

Some of the big supermarkets are trying to put straws to one side.

Waitrose says it's removing all plastic straws from its shelves by September this year.

Morrisons says it plans to phase out drinking straws in its cafes.

Iceland, [**says it aims to be "plastic-free" by 2023.**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/42915897) It has already removed plastic straws from its own label range.

Restaurant Pizza Express decided to change its plastic straws to biodegradable ones by summer 2018. They said it was after this letter was sent to them by 5-year old girl called Ava.

Coffee shops Costa Coffee and Pret A Manger have also taken action. Both say they will be swapping out plastic straws in 2018.

Although you will still be able to ask for a plastic straw if you need it.

**Does everyone think it's a good idea?**

Some campaigners say straws are really important to help disabled people drink.

UK Paralympic legend Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson has said paper or glass alternatives are not always suitable or safe.

Baroness Grey-Thompson said she supported environmentally friendly initiatives but said disabled people could be "seriously disadvantaged if we can't find a proper alternative".

Adapted from http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/44494066