

### 3D: I'm not a parrot! (TEACHER NOTES)

#### In this activity, students will...

- Explore/Experiment the difference between blindly reproducing sounds and understanding a complex message and being able to reproduce that message accurately.
- Practice short-term memory.
- Discuss the implications of having a third person convey one's messages.

Time estimate

40 - 50 minutes

#### How to use these materials

STAGE 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Show a jar full of corn and empty its content into a small box or on a pile on the table. Announce the group goal of this activity: to put as much corn back into the jar as possible.</li><li>• Split the class in three groups and assign each group a letter: A, B or C.</li><li>• Assign the following roles: every student in group A will be a reader, every student in group B will be a parrot, every student in group C will be a parrot trainer.</li><li>• Have students gather in groups of three in which each of the roles are represented (A, B, and C)</li></ul>	5'
STAGE 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate how seeds can be earned: when a parrot is capable of repeating to the trainer word for word everything that the reader read out loud, the parrot gets a full reward. One corn seed per highlighted word on the card.</li></ul>	3'
STAGE 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask readers to read one sentence at a time and to only read it once. They are to choose the order in which they read the sentences. Any order is good as long as it's not the same order as what they hear from their neighbour's.</li><li>• Ask parrots to listen, as they will need to reproduce the sentence they just heard just as they heard it.</li><li>• Ask observers to assess whether the parrot did a good job or not. They will use the trainer's cards to determine how many corn seeds the parrot earns after each rendition.</li></ul>	25'
STAGE 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collect all the seeds into the jar.</li><li>• As a class, determine how successful you were at reaching the set goal. How full is the jar? 30%, 50%, 100%?</li></ul>	2'
STAGE 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Class discussion: Have you ever heard a parrot make more than two full sentences in a row? Why? Does a parrot understand what it says? Why do we remember the general meaning without remembering the details? Are the details important? Why? Why not? What happens when we ask someone to translate for us? Will they remember all the details even if they understood them fully?</li></ul>	5'
(STAGE 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If time allows, watch this video with an example of liaison interpreting between Chinese and Catalan (available with English and Spanish subtitles): <a href="#">Expanding borders</a>.</li></ul>	10'

#### Prep time suggestions

- Print out reading cards and grading cards. (You may also make your own reading cards and grading cards with sentences of your choice. Make sure to match the number of highlighted words with the number of corn seeds in the jar!)
- Find a small narrow jar or a test tube (a transparent container) that can hold 32 corn seeds per group/parrot trainer (64 total).
- Consider whether you want students to have the same role throughout the activity or you want to change roles every few cards. (Bear in mind that more changes take more time!)
- If your classroom space is small, to avoid loud chaos, consider having only three students carry out the activity at a time and having the rest of the class observe.
- Read chapter 6 of the Teacher's Book *Inclusion, Diversity and Communication Across Cultures* [available online](#) for some background information on the concept of accuracy and short-term memory. This will help you guide the discussion.

### 3D. I am not a parrot!

Parrot!



Roses are red, the sky is blue and I often wonder what to do.

Roses can be white, pink, red or yellow, but daisies tend to be white, and the poppies in my garden are actually purple.

I am never fully awake until I have completed my morning routine: 10 jumping jacks and 3 series of 15 sit-ups before jumping in the shower which includes 3 minutes of warm water and ends with 20 seconds of cold water.

I know exactly what should be in my pencil case and I need it all: a red pen, a blue fountain pen, a pencil sharpener, an eraser, a paper clip and a pen. Can you check it's all there?

Banana bread is easy: mix up 3 ripe bananas, 2 eggs, one cup flour, ½ cup sugar, ½ cup vegetable oil, ¼ cup chocolate chips, 1 tsp baking soda, pour in a mold and bake for 30 mins!

Trainer's cards

Reader's card

- Roses are red, the sky is blue and I often wonder what to do.
- Roses can be white, pink, red or yellow, but daisies tend to be white, and the poppy seeds in my garden are actually purple.
- I know exactly what should be in my pencil case and I need it all: a red pen, a blue fountain pen, a pencil sharpener, an eraser, a paper clip and a pen. Can you check it's all there?
- I am never fully awake until I have completed my morning routine: 10 jumping jacks and 3 series of 15 sit-ups before jumping in the shower which includes 3 minutes of warm water and ends with 20 seconds of cold water.
- Banana bread is easy: mix up 3 ripe bananas, 2 eggs, one cup flour, ½ cup sugar, ½ cup vegetable oil, ¼ cup chocolate chips, 1 tsp baking soda, pour in a mold and bake for 30 mins!