

Understanding Language // Age 11-14

Jokes

Collect a jokes book or an app of jokes your teenager finds funny. Look for jokes which have multiple meanings or that require inference, for example 'Why did the teacher wear sunglasses? Because her students were too bright!'



Idioms

Use the picture cards supplied. First put them face up on the table, and see how many of them your teenager has heard before. To help them reflect, you can use the idiom in context, e.g. 'The teacher asks the class whether they are finding the work difficult, one child says 'It's a piece of cake!'. What does the student mean?'

Play a pairs game matching the idioms to their meanings.

You could also make a pairs game with implied meanings, e.g. 'it's a bit cold in here', inferred meaning 'please shut the window'.

Using Key words

If a young person is finding understanding questions or texts challenging, teach them to look for key words and underline these. Make a mind map from the information, and then ask the young person to explain the subject to you in their own words. Drawing visuals or diagrams of complex information can help the young person understand the key themes.

Source from internet word maps for similar topics from earlier in the curriculum to support understanding of basic concepts underlying work.

