

## MANUAL

## INTRODUCTION

1. Make a copy of the text and exercises for all pupils.
2. Make a copy of the Step-by-Step Reading Guide for all pupils.
3. *Words to help you* is not available this lesson, because the pupils have to clarify the unknown words in the text for themselves.

**Reading strategy:** clarifying

**Key Visual:** w-chart

**Language:** Laugh first, think later (speaking)

### Method:

To give the pupils the opportunity to talk about the text and the exercises, it is best to let them work in pairs or threes.

You can use the following clip to give the pupils an impression of this year's Ig Nobel Prize ceremony: [https://youtu.be/47\\_xvNBffKc](https://youtu.be/47_xvNBffKc) (1:57).

It is best to show this video *after* reading the text. After watching, you can ask the pupils which elements from the text they recognised (e.g., the trophy, the paper planes and the girl 'Miss Sweetie Poo').

## 1. READ THE TEXT AND CLARIFY

1. Open the text on the interactive whiteboard by using this button:



Click on the blurred sections to open the title first. Let the pupils predict what the text is about. This is probably hard to do.

2. Now, open the headings and picture and let the pupils make another prediction. Discuss if they can predict the subject of the text now, and what they have heard about this topic.
3. Read the explanation, together with the pupils.
4. The pupils read the text and underline or highlight the words they don't know.
5. The pupils work together or alone. They determine if they know the word already, if they can deduce the meaning from the word or context, or if it is necessary to use a dictionary.
6. The pupils write down definitions of the words in the table. If they can't formulate their own

definition, they select a definition from the dictionary. However, the pupils must first try to formulate a definition themselves!

7. The pupils complete the table with other words that they did not know.

You can find the correct answers on page 2 of this manual.

## 2. COMPLETE THE W-CHART

The pupils fill in the W-chart. Point out that together the answers give an impression of the text content. Explain that a W-chart, in any kind of form, can be used for all kinds of texts.

You can find example questions and answers on page 2 of this manual.

## 3. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

The pupils answer the questions about the text in pairs or threes. Encourage them to discuss their answers!

You can find the correct answers on page 3 of this manual.

## 4. LAUGH FIRST, THINK LATER

The pupils work in groups. Together they discuss what could be an Ig Nobel Prize winning research idea. They prepare a short presentation about their research idea (max. 3'), plus a short acceptance speech (max. 1'). The groups present their ideas to the class. Then, they vote for the winning idea. The winning group gives an acceptance speech. The 'audience' can fold paper airplanes and throw them at the speakers on stage.

## ANSWERS

### 1. READ THE TEXT AND CLARIFY

word	1 to 4	meaning
to have something in common (lines 1-2)		to have similar characteristics
to curse (line 3)		to utter offensive words in anger or annoyance
nutritional (line 5)		The <i>nutritional</i> content of food is all the substances that are in it which help you to remain healthy.
the saliva (line 6)		The liquid produced in your mouth to keep the mouth wet and to help to prepare food to be digested.
the parody (line 10, 11)		a humorous imitation of the real Nobel Prize awards
the acceptance speech (line 32)		a speech that someone makes when they are accepting a prize they won
to exceed (line 34)		to go beyond what is allowed
the equivalent (line 42)		equal in value
to remove (line 51)		to take something away from somewhere
to pop out (line 56)		to come out
the breakthrough (line 63)		a sudden, important discovery

### 2. COMPLETE THE W-CHART

*Possible answers and questions:*

**What** is the Ig Nobel Prize? It is an award for 'absurd' research. It is a parody of the 'real' Nobel Prize.

**Why** is this prize awarded? Because research that seems silly initially, can lead to a breakthrough for science.

**Who** is the initiator of the Ig Nobel Prize? Marc Abrahams, editor of a humoristic science magazine.

**Where** is the ceremony held? At Harvard University in the USA.

**When** is the prize awarded? It is awarded annually in September.

### 3. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Some research that may seem ridiculous at first, can lead to important breakthroughs in science. So, it isn't silly after all, when you think about it.
2. Six studies are mentioned in the text:
  - study on what shouting and cursing does to your driving;
  - study on cannibalism's nutritional value;
  - study on human saliva as a cleaning product;
  - study on removal of kidney stones after a roller coaster ride;
  - study on the identification by wine experts of a fly in a glass of wine, just by smell;
  - study on the imitation of humans by chimpanzees.
3. No, researchers do not become rich by winning an Ig Nobel Prize, because they receive an amount that is worth a few dollar cents.
4. D. to imitate
5. Examples of two humorous traditions: the audience can fold paper airplanes from their programme and fly them at the stage; if an acceptance speech lasts too long, a little girl yells: "Please stop: I'm bored".