



5 Most Common Areas of Difficulty in Year 5

How to support your child

We asked our Atom Education Experts about the 5 most common areas of difficulty in Year 5 and how you can support your child with these.

Here are their top tips:

Inference

Within comprehension 'inference' tends to be the area students struggle with the most. Inference questions aren't looking for explicit information but instead require students to form their own opinions & conclusions based on contextual evidence from the text.

Pro Tip:

One fun way to build inference skills is to play 'prediction' and 'storytelling' games'. At the end of a chapter get your child to write down a prediction of what is going to happen next. Another version of this game is to write an alternative ending to a story!



Stolen Words

In Stolen words questions, within VR, you need to work out what 3 or 4 letter word is missing from the incomplete word you are given. Three key skills are needed to be able to answer stolen words questions: A strong vocabulary, spelling and word recognition.

Pro Tip:

Encourage your child to read as much as possible to expand their vocabulary. Games such as scrabble, boggle and hangman are also fun ways to practise word recognition. On Atom recap the [Stolen Words helpsheet](#).

Worded problems

Many students get thrown off when presented with a worded problem as they don't expect to see so much text in maths. It is important to stay calm and break it down into each step. Remember, often the last sentence alters what you think the question is asking so it is important to read the full question carefully.

Pro Tip:

Set regular custom practices in 'Worded Problems' under number > operations > worded problems. Also Time, Speed and Money under measurement > weights and measures as these questions are frequently displayed as worded problems.

Following each practice, review the transcript together reflecting on corrections and what to do differently next time. If your child can spot themselves that they didn't read the question properly, they are less likely to make the same mistake in future!

Rotations and Reflections

Rotations and Reflections questions are one of the most common areas where students accidentally select 'red herrings', answer options that at first glance look correct. To find the right answer students need strong spatial awareness skills.

Pro Tip:

When revising, use pencil and paper to trace the shape and physically rotate the page to see what it would look like rather than trying to imagine it. This will help create a strong mental representation to help visualise in an exam.

Nets and cubes

Another of non-verbal reasoning's stickiest areas, Nets and Cubes continue to be one of the areas students struggle with most.

Pro Tip:

Watching the 11+ Exam Prep: Nets and Cubes live lesson recording to learn all about the dud rule, opposite rule and orientation rule that combined will help students face any nets and cubes questions they may see in the real 11+ exam.



