

Tool 04A - Clarometry Handouts

10 common ways learning can feel confusing

A visual guide to spotting what is getting in the way of understanding.

1

A

BIG WORDS

Confusion by Big Words

WHAT IT CAN FEEL LIKE

I don't know what that word means, so I don't understand the rest.

KEY POINTS

- One unfamiliar word can block understanding.
- The rest of the explanation may stop making sense.

2



TOO MANY STEPS

Confusion by Too Many Steps

WHAT IT CAN FEEL LIKE

I forgot step 3 because the teacher said a lot at once.

KEY POINTS

- Several steps can be hard to hold at once.
- A missed step can make the whole process confusing.

3



UNCLEAR DIRECTIONS

Confusion by Unclear Directions

WHAT IT CAN FEEL LIKE

I'm not sure what we're supposed to do.

KEY POINTS

- The task may not feel clearly defined.
- Uncertainty about what to do can stop progress.

4



FAST TALKING

Confusion by Fast Talking

WHAT IT CAN FEEL LIKE

The teacher moved on before I got it.

KEY POINTS

- The explanation may move faster than understanding.
- There may not be enough time to process the idea.

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NERVOUS TO ASK

Confusion by Feeling Nervous to Ask

WHAT IT CAN FEEL LIKE

I don't want to raise my hand and look dumb.

KEY POINTS

- Feeling nervous can make asking for help harder.
- The confusion can remain unspoken.

6



SOUND - ALIKE WORDS

Confusion by Words That Sound the Same

WHAT IT CAN FEEL LIKE

Wait—is it 'there,' 'their,' or 'they're'?

KEY POINTS

- Similar-sounding words can be easy to mix up.
- The meaning may change depending on the word.

7



RULES NOT YET KNOWN

Confusion by Not Knowing the Rules Yet

WHAT IT CAN FEEL LIKE

Is it okay to get up now? What's allowed?

KEY POINTS

- Unfamiliar rules can create uncertainty.
- The learner may hesitate because expectations are unclear.

8



METHOD DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK

Confusion by Drawing or Math Tricks That

WHAT IT CAN FEEL LIKE

I used that method before... why didn't it work this time?

KEY POINTS

- A familiar method may not work in every situation.
- The mismatch can make the learner question what changed.

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MISSING SOMETHING

Confusion by Story or Sentence That's

WHAT IT CAN FEEL LIKE

That sentence doesn't make sense... what happened?

KEY POINTS

- A missing detail can break the meaning.
- The learner may need the missing context to understand.

10



NOISE / DISTRACTION

Confusion by Too Much Noise or Distraction

WHAT IT CAN FEEL LIKE

It's too loud in here... I can't focus on what the teacher said.

KEY POINTS

- Noise can interrupt attention.
- Distraction can make it harder to focus on the explanation.