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Level 2
Ants use the Sun to get from A to B

22nd January, 2017

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170122-ants-2.html

Contents

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170122-ants-2.html

Ants are impressive creatures. There are many things we do not know about them. Scientists have just found an amazing new fact about these tiny insects. It is about how ants get from A to B, without getting lost. Scientists say ants can go in a straight line, whatever direction they are facing. The BBC said it is the same as, "trying to find your way home while walking backwards or even spinning round and round". Ants do this by using the position of the Sun, their memories, and what they can see around them. Professor Barbara Webb said ants get around like a self-driving car.

The scientists studied desert ants in Spain. Their report is in the journal 'Current Biology'. They said ants could travel over long distances from their nest even when there are obstacles in their way. They can also do this if they have to drag food while walking backwards. Professor Webb said: "Ants have a…tiny brain…yet they can navigate successfully under many difficult conditions, including going backwards." She said: "Understanding their behaviour gives us new [ideas] into brain function and has inspired us to build robot systems that [copy] their functions."

Sources: http://www.**bbc.com**/news/science-environment-38665058
http://www.**popsci.com**/ants-find-way-walk-backwards-navigation
http://www.**cell.com**/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822(16)31466-X

PHRASE MATCHING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170122-ants-2.html

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. Ants are impressive creatures	a. backwards
2. many things we do not	b. lost
3. how ants get	c. straight line
4. without getting	d. know about them
5. ants can go in a	e. driving car
6. whatever direction they	f. creatures
7. while walking	g. are facing
8. like a self-	h. from A to B

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1. Their report is in the journal	a. food
2. travel over long	b. robot systems
3. there are obstacles	c. conditions
4. if they have to drag	d. distances
5. navigate	e. behaviour
6. under many difficult	f. in their way
7. Understanding their	g. successfully
8. inspired us to build	h. 'Current Biology'

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170122-ants-2.html

Ants are (1) _____. There are many things we do not know about them. Scientists have just (2) _____ new fact about these tiny insects. It is about how ants get from A to B, without getting lost. Scientists say ants can go (3) _____, whatever direction they are facing. The BBC said it is the same as, "trying to find your way home while (4) _____ or even spinning round and round". Ants do this (5) _____ position of the Sun, their memories, and what they can (6) _____. Professor Barbara Webb said ants get around like a self-driving car.

The scientists (7) _____ in Spain. Their report is in the journal 'Current Biology'. They said ants (8) _____ long distances from their nest even when there are obstacles (9) _____. They can also do this if they have to drag food while walking backwards. Professor Webb said: "Ants (10) _____ …yet they can navigate successfully under many (11) _____, including going backwards." She said: "Understanding their behaviour gives us new [ideas] into brain function (12) _____ us to build robot systems that [copy] their functions."

PUT A SLASH (/)WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170122-ants-2.html

Antsareimpressivecreatures.Therearemanythingswedonotknowab outthem.Scientistshavejustfoundanamazingnewfactaboutthesetin yinsects.Itisabouthowantsgetfromatob,withoutgettinglost.Scientis tssayantscangoinastraightline,whateverdirectiontheyarefacing.The BBCsaiditisthesameas,"tryingtofindyourwayhomewhilewalkingbac kwardsorevenspinningroundandround".Antsdothisbyusingthepositi onoftheSun,theirmemories,andwhattheycanseearoundthem.Profes sorBarbaraWebbsaidantsgetaroundlikeaself-drivingcar.Thescientis tsstudieddesertantsinSpain.Theirreportisinthejournal'CurrentBiolo gy'.Theysaidantscouldtraveloverlongdistancesfromtheirnestevenw hentherareobstaclesintheirway.Theycanalsodothisiftheyhavetodr agfoodwhilewalkingbackwards.ProfessorWebbsaid:"Antshavea…tin ybrain…yettheycannavigatesuccessfullyundermanydifficultconditio ns,includinggoingbackwards."Shesaid:"Understandingtheirbehavio urgivesusnew[ideas]intobrainfunctionandhasinspiredustobuildrobo tsystemsthat[copy]theirfunctions."

ANTS SURVEY

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170122-ants-4.html

Write five GOOD questions about ants in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

Ants use the Sun to get from A to B – 22nd January, 2017
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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1701/170122-ants-2.html

Write about **ants** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.