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Level 6

Koalas hug trees to stay cool

6th June, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

Scientists have unlocked one of the secrets as to how koalas stay cool and avoid dehydration in the intense heat of Australian summers. They hug trees. For decades people thought the cuddly marsupials clung to trees simply because they were tired and wanted somewhere to nap. Researchers from Melbourne University have now cast new light on the tree-hugging habits of the koala. Lead researcher Natalie Briscoe said there is a five-degree difference in temperature between a tree trunk and the air. Koalas utilize the cooler surface by spreading themselves out on large branches or by hugging the trunk. Ms Briscoe said: "Access to these trees can save about half the water a koala would need to keep cool on a hot day."

Briscoe studied the behaviour of 37 koalas on an island off the Melbourne coast. She is part of a team trying to identify how koalas might survive higher temperatures brought by global warming. Her observations and conclusions regarding the cooling effects of the trees came as a surprise to her. She noted that the koalas sat upright in cooler weather, hugged branches when it became warmer, and then wrapped themselves around the tree trunk when it got hot. The animals even moved to different trees that had cooler trunks. She said the trees are probably cooler because of the water they suck up from the ground. The koala's cooling technique could be one way for humans to survive increasingly hot summers.

Sources: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/cool-koalas-are-treehuggers-for-a-reason-study-finds-20140603-39gxj.html#ixzz33daSffXC>
<http://www.livescience.com/46073-why-koalas-hug-trees.html>
<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn25668-overheated-koalas-show-treehugging-is-cool-man.html#.U46S1S8uKHA>

WARM-UPS

1. KOALAS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about koalas. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

scientists / secret / dehydration / intense heat / cooler / branches / water / a hot day / behaviour / survive / global warming / warmer / water / ground / technique

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. COOL ANIMALS: How do the following stay cool? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What do (you think) they do?	How would this work for humans?
Humans		-----
Dogs		
Camels		
Elephants		
Lizards		
Rabbits		

4. SUMMER: Students A **strongly** believe summer is better than winter; Students B **strongly** believe winter is better. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. STAYING COOL: Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to stay cool in summer at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- use a fan
- sit in the shade
- wear fewer clothes
- drink cold water
- avoid coffee and alcohol
- wear cotton
- spray water on your face
- go to a shopping mall

6. DEHYDRATION: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "dehydration". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Scientists have discovered a secret about koalas. | T / F |
| b. For decades, people thought koalas hugged trees to avoid dehydration. | T / F |
| c. A tree trunk is around five degrees cooler than the air around it. | T / F |
| d. Hugging trees means koalas don't have to drink as much water. | T / F |
| e. A research team studies the behaviour of 370 koalas. | T / F |
| f. Scientists were investigating how koalas could survive global warming. | T / F |
| g. The koalas stayed in their favourite eucalyptus trees to stay cool. | T / F |
| h. The article said trees are cooler because they reflect the sun's rays. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. secrets | a. conserve |
| 2. avoid | b. thrown |
| 3. cuddly | c. erect |
| 4. cast | d. steer clear of |
| 5. save | e. establish |
| 6. behaviour | f. mysteries |
| 7. identify | g. in all likelihood |
| 8. upright | h. huggable |
| 9. probably | i. get through |
| 10. survive | j. actions |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. unlocked one | a. in temperature |
| 2. stay cool and | b. conclusions |
| 3. cast new | c. water a koala would need |
| 4. a five-degree difference | d. technique |
| 5. save about half the | e. light on |
| 6. trying to identify how | f. of the secrets |
| 7. observations and | g. hot summers |
| 8. water they suck | h. avoid dehydration |
| 9. cooling | i. up from the ground |
| 10. survive increasingly | j. koalas might survive |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

Scientists have (1) _____ one of the secrets as to how koalas stay cool and avoid dehydration in the intense heat of Australian summers. They hug trees. For (2) _____ people thought the cuddly marsupials (3) _____ to trees simply because they were tired and wanted somewhere to (4) _____. Researchers from Melbourne University have now cast new light on the tree-hugging (5) _____ of the koala. Lead researcher Natalie Briscoe said there is a five-degree (6) _____ in temperature between a tree trunk and the air. Koalas utilize the cooler surface by (7) _____ themselves out on large branches or by hugging the trunk. Ms Briscoe said: "Access to these trees can save about (8) _____ the water a koala would need to keep cool on a hot day."

habits
spreading
clung
unlocked
difference
decades
half
nap

Briscoe studied the behaviour of 37 koalas on an island off the Melbourne (9) _____. She is part of a team trying to identify how koalas might survive higher temperatures brought by global warming. Her observations and (10) _____ regarding the cooling effects of the trees came as a (11) _____ to her. She noted that the koalas sat (12) _____ in cooler weather, hugged branches when it became warmer, and then (13) _____ themselves around the tree trunk when it got hot. The animals even moved to different trees that had (14) _____ trunks. She said the trees are probably cooler because of the water they (15) _____ up from the ground. The koala's cooling technique could be one way for humans to survive (16) _____ hot summers.

upright
cooler
increasingly
surprise
coast
wrapped
suck
conclusions

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

- 1) how koalas stay cool and _____
 - a. avoid rehydration
 - b. avoid dehydration
 - c. avoid dehydrating
 - d. avoid rehydrating
- 2) marsupials clung to trees simply because they were tired and wanted _____
 - a. somewhere to map
 - b. somewhere to nab
 - c. somewhere to nap
 - d. somewhere to rap
- 3) cast new light on the tree-hugging _____
 - a. habits for the koala
 - b. habits if the koala
 - c. habits on the koala
 - d. habits of the koala
- 4) Koalas utilize the _____
 - a. cooler surfaces
 - b. cooler sir face
 - c. cooler surface
 - d. cooler shore face
- 5) Access to these trees can save about _____ a koala would need
 - a. half a water
 - b. half the water
 - c. half of water
 - d. half that water
- 6) the behaviour of 37 koalas on an island off the _____
 - a. Melbourne coasts
 - b. Melbourne coastline
 - c. Melbourne coasted
 - d. Melbourne coast
- 7) Her observations and conclusions regarding _____
 - a. the coolant effects
 - b. the cooling effects
 - c. the cool in effects
 - d. the cool and effects
- 8) She noted that the koalas _____ cooler weather
 - a. sat upright in
 - b. sat uptight in
 - c. sat up light in
 - d. sat alright in
- 9) She said the trees are probably cooler because of the water they _____ the ground
 - a. suck up for
 - b. stuck up from
 - c. stuck up for
 - d. suck up from
- 10) one way for humans to survive _____ summers
 - a. increase in the hot
 - b. increasingly hot
 - c. increasing heat
 - d. increasingly heat

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

Scientists have unlocked one of the (1) _____ koalas stay cool and avoid dehydration in the intense heat of Australian summers. They hug trees. For decades people (2) _____ marsupials clung to trees simply because they were tired and wanted somewhere to nap. Researchers from Melbourne University have (3) _____ on the tree-hugging habits of the koala. Lead researcher Natalie Briscoe said there (4) _____ difference in temperature between a tree trunk and the air. Koalas utilize (5) _____ by spreading themselves out on large branches or by hugging the trunk. Ms Briscoe said: "Access to these trees can save about (6) _____ koala would need to keep cool on a hot day."

Briscoe studied the behaviour of 37 koalas (7) _____ the Melbourne coast. She is part of a team trying to identify how koalas might survive (8) _____ brought by global warming. Her observations and conclusions regarding the (9) _____ the trees came as a surprise to her. She noted that the koalas sat upright in cooler weather, (10) _____ when it became warmer, and then wrapped themselves around the tree trunk when it got hot. The animals (11) _____ different trees that had cooler trunks. She said the trees are probably cooler because of the water they suck up from the ground. The koala's cooling technique (12) _____ humans to survive increasingly hot summers.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

1. What have scientists done to a secret?

2. For how long did people think koalas hugged trees to sleep?

3. What have researchers cast on the koala's habits?

4. What is the difference in temperature between a tree trunk and the air?

5. How much water can koalas save by hugging trees?

6. How many koalas did researchers look at?

7. How did the researcher feel about the conclusions of the research?

8. Why did koalas move to different trees?

9. How do trees get water?

10. What could humans survive by using the koala's cooling technique?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

1. What have scientists done to a secret?
 - a) shared it
 - b) unlocked it
 - c) kept it
 - d) exposed it
2. For how long did people think koalas hugged trees to sleep?
 - a) 34 days
 - b) since 1812
 - c) decades
 - d) millennia
3. What have researchers cast on the koala's habits?
 - a) nets
 - b) seeds
 - c) doubt
 - d) new light
4. What is the difference in temperature between a tree trunk and the air?
 - a) hot and cold
 - b) 5 degrees
 - c) three fish
 - d) the mercury is rising
5. How much water can koalas save by hugging trees?
 - a) half
 - b) 2 litres
 - c) as much as they sweat
 - d) a few drops an hour
6. How many koalas did researchers look at?
 - a) 37
 - b) 36
 - c) 35
 - d) 34
7. How did the researcher feel about the conclusions of the research?
 - a) stunned
 - b) satisfied
 - c) shocked
 - d) surprised
8. Why did koalas move to different trees?
 - a) for food
 - b) because of ants
 - c) they were cooler
 - d) to get a change of scenery
9. How do trees get water?
 - a) absorb it from rain
 - b) photosynthesis
 - c) by osmosis
 - d) they suck it up from the ground
10. What could humans survive by using the koala's cooling technique?
 - a) 30-minute saunas
 - b) hotter summers
 - c) deforestation
 - d) a eucalyptus shortage

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

Role A – Use a fan

You think using a fan is the best way to keep cool. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): drinking cold water, wearing cotton or avoiding alcohol and coffee.

Role B – Drink cold water

You think drinking cold water is the best way to keep cool. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): using a fan, wearing cotton or avoiding alcohol and coffee.

Role C – Wear cotton

You think wearing cotton is the best way to keep cool. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): drinking cold water, using a fan or avoiding alcohol and coffee.

Role D – Avoid alcohol and coffee

You think avoiding alcohol and coffee is the best way to keep cool. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): drinking cold water, wearing cotton or using a fan.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'stay' and 'cool'.

stay	cool
-------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• heat• decades• nap• light• five• half	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 37• global• surprise• upright• suck• survive
--	---

KOALAS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

Write five GOOD questions about koalas 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.

KOALAS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'koala'?
- c) What do you know about koalas?
- d) What do you think of the research in the article?
- e) What do you do to keep cool?
- f) Will you try hugging a tree when it gets really hot?
- g) Do you prefer very hot summers or very cold winters?
- h) How could researchers use their findings to help humans?
- i) How would you survive the heat in the countryside?

Koalas hug trees to stay cool – 6th June, 2014
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KOALAS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) How good a job is studying koala behaviour?
- c) How will humans survive higher temperatures?
- d) How does your body shape change in the cold or heat?
- e) What other things could we hug to stay cool (or keep warm)?
- f) What do you do when it gets really hot?
- g) Are there other benefits to hugging a tree?
- h) How many ways can water keep us cool?
- i) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

Scientists have unlocked one of the secrets (1) _____ to how koalas stay cool and avoid dehydration in the intense heat of Australian summers. They hug trees. For decades people thought the (2) _____ marsupials clung to trees simply because they were (3) _____ and wanted somewhere to nap. Researchers from Melbourne University have now (4) _____ new light on the tree-hugging habits of the koala. Lead researcher Natalie Briscoe said there is a five-degree difference in temperature between a tree trunk and the air. Koalas utilize the cooler (5) _____ by spreading themselves out on large branches or by hugging the trunk. Ms Briscoe said: "(6) _____ to these trees can save about half the water a koala would need to keep cool on a hot day."

Briscoe studied the behaviour of 37 koalas on an island (7) _____ the Melbourne coast. She is part of a team trying to identify how koalas might survive higher temperatures brought by global warming. Her observations and conclusions (8) _____ the cooling effects of the trees came (9) _____ a surprise to her. She noted that the koalas sat (10) _____ in cooler weather, hugged branches when it became warmer, and then wrapped themselves around the tree trunk when it got hot. The animals (11) _____ moved to different trees that had cooler trunks. She said the trees are probably cooler because of the water they suck up from the ground. The koala's (12) _____ technique could be one way for humans to survive increasingly hot summers.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) was | (b) us | (c) is | (d) as |
| 2. | (a) candidly | (b) crazily | (c) candy | (d) cuddly |
| 3. | (a) tread | (b) tired | (c) tried | (d) tardy |
| 4. | (a) vast | (b) mast | (c) cast | (d) last |
| 5. | (a) surface | (b) top | (c) shelf | (d) base |
| 6. | (a) Access | (b) Excess | (c) Recess | (d) Success |
| 7. | (a) next | (b) at | (c) in | (d) off |
| 8. | (a) regarding | (b) regards | (c) regarded | (d) rearguard |
| 9. | (a) to | (b) as | (c) via | (d) from |
| 10. | (a) uptight | (b) insight | (c) upright | (d) out of sight |
| 11. | (a) might | (b) simple | (c) even | (d) expressly |
| 12. | (a) cooled | (b) cooling | (c) chilling | (d) chilled |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

Paragraph 1

1. avoid ondrdhaiyte in the intense heat
2. the dcydlu marsupials clung to trees
3. Lead ecersrreha
4. a five-degree difference in teauemprrt
5. Koalas utilize the cooler ruacfes
6. ecassc to these trees

Paragraph 2

7. the iorhevua of 37 koalas
8. trying to dnfiteiy how koalas might survive
9. observations and Inoiosnucc
10. koalas sat ightpur in cooler weather
11. wpedapr themselves around the tree trunk
12. The koala's cooling hueictnqe

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () new light on the tree-hugging habits of the koala. Lead researcher Natalie Briscoe said there is a five-
- () up from the ground. The koala's cooling technique could be one way for humans to survive increasingly hot summers.
- () of a team trying to identify how koalas might survive higher temperatures brought
- (**1**) Scientists have unlocked one of the secrets as to how koalas stay cool and avoid dehydration in the intense
- () degree difference in temperature between a tree trunk and the air. Koalas utilize the cooler
- () Briscoe studied the behaviour of 37 koalas on an island off the Melbourne coast. She is part
- () heat of Australian summers. They hug trees. For decades people thought the cuddly marsupials clung
- () surface by spreading themselves out on large branches or by hugging the trunk. Ms Briscoe said: "Access
- () to trees simply because they were tired and wanted somewhere to nap. Researchers from Melbourne University have now cast
- () surprise to her. She noted that the koalas sat upright in cooler weather, hugged branches when it became warmer, and then
- () wrapped themselves around the tree trunk when it got hot. The animals even moved to different trees that had cooler
- () by global warming. Her observations and conclusions regarding the cooling effects of the trees came as a
- () trunks. She said the trees are probably cooler because of the water they suck
- () to these trees can save about half the water a koala would need to keep cool on a hot day."

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

1. have secrets of unlocked Scientists the one.

2. of on Cast the hugging the new koala habits tree- light.

3. a degree temperature is - in There five difference.

4. themselves on branches Spreading out large.

5. a need about water would Save the koala half.

6. coast Melbourne the off island an On.

7. koalas identify trying might how A survive to team.

8. to as the cooling her a trees effects surprise came of The.

9. different trunks trees that Moved had to cooler.

10. one cooling way technique could The be koala's.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

Scientists have *unlocked* / *locked out* one of the secrets as to how koalas stay cool and avoid dehydration in the *intensity* / *intense* heat of Australian summers. They hug trees. For *decadence* / *decades* people thought the cuddly marsupials *clung* / *clinging* to trees simply because they were tired and wanted somewhere to *nap* / *sap*. Researchers from Melbourne University have now cast new *shadow* / *light* on the tree-hugging habits of the koala. Lead researcher Natalie Briscoe said there is a five-degree *differential* / *difference* in temperature between a tree trunk and the air. Koalas utilize the cooler *surface* / *surfaced* by spreading themselves *off* / *out* on large branches or by hugging the trunk. Ms Briscoe said: "Access to these trees can save about *half* / *halved* the water a koala would need to keep cool on a hot day."

Briscoe studied the behaviour of 37 koalas *on* / *in* an island off the Melbourne coast. She is part of a team trying to *identity* / *identify* how koalas might survive higher temperatures *brought* / *bought* by global warming. Her observations and conclusions *regaling* / *regarding* the cooling effects of the trees came as a *surprise* / *surprising* to her. She noted that the koalas sat *upright* / *uptight* in cooler weather, hugged branches when it became warmer, and then *wrapped* / *warped* themselves around the tree trunk when it got hot. The animals *even* / *odd* moved to different trees that had cooler trunks. She said the trees are probably cooler because of the water they *stuck* / *suck* up from the ground. The koala's cooling technique could be one way for humans to survive *increases* / *increasingly* hot summers.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

Sc__nt__sts h_v__nl__ck__d__n__f th__s__cr__ts__s__t__h__w
k__l__s__st__y__c__l__nd__v__d__d__hydr__t__n__n__th__
__nt__ns__h__t__f__str__l__n__s__mm__rs. Th__y__h__g__tr__s.
F__r__d__c__d__s__p__pl__th__ght__th__c__ddly__m__rs__p__ls
cl__ng__t__tr__s__s__mply__b__c__s__th__y__w__r__t__r__d__nd
w__nt__d__s__m__wh__r__t__n__p. R__s__rch__rs__fr__m__M__lb__rn__
__n__v__rs__ty__h__v__n__w__c__st__n__w__l__ght__n__th__tr__-
h__gg__ng__h__b__ts__f__th__k__l__. L__d__r__s__rch__r__N__t__l__
Br__sc__s__d__th__r__s__f__v__-d__gr__d__ff__r__nc__n__
t__mp__r__t__r__b__tw__n__tr__tr__nk__nd__th__r__. K__l__s__
__t__l__z__th__c__l__r__s__rf__c__by__spr__d__ng__th__ms__lv__s__
__t__n__l__rg__br__nch__s__r__by__h__gg__ng__th__tr__nk. Ms
Br__sc__s__d: "cc__ss__t__th__s__tr__s__c__n__s__v__b__t__
h__lf__th__w__t__r__k__l__w__ld__n__d__t__k__p__c__l__n__
h__t__d__y."

Br__sc__s__t__d__d__th__b__h__v__r__f__37__k__l__s__n__n__
__sl__nd__ff__th__M__lb__rn__c__st. Sh__s__p__rt__f__t__m__
try__ng__t__d__nt__fy__h__w__k__l__s__m__ght__s__rv__v__h__gh__r__
t__mp__r__t__r__s__br__ght__by__gl__b__l__w__rm__ng. H__r__
__bs__rv__t__ns__nd__c__ncl__s__ns__r__g__rd__ng__th__c__l__ng__
__ff__cts__f__th__tr__s__c__m__s__s__rpr__s__t__h__r. Sh__
n__t__d__th__t__th__k__l__s__s__t__pr__ght__n__c__l__r__w__th__r__,
h__gg__d__br__nch__s__wh__n__t__b__c__m__w__rm__r__,__nd__th__n__
wr__pp__d__th__ms__lv__s__r__nd__th__tr__tr__nk__wh__n__t__g__t__
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PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

scientists have unlocked one of the secrets as to how koalas stay cool and avoid dehydration in the intense heat of australian summers they hug trees for decades people thought the cuddly marsupials clung to trees simply because they were tired and wanted somewhere to nap researchers from melbourne university have now cast new light on the tree-hugging habits of the koala lead researcher natalie briscoe said there is a five-degree difference in temperature between a tree trunk and the air koalas utilize the cooler surface by spreading themselves out on large branches or by hugging the trunk ms briscoe said "access to these trees can save about half the water a koala would need to keep cool on a hot day"

briscoe studied the behaviour of 37 koalas on an island off the melbourne coast she is part of a team trying to identify how koalas might survive higher temperatures brought by global warming her observations and conclusions regarding the cooling effects of the trees came as a surprise to her she noted that the koalas sat upright in cooler weather hugged branches when it became warmer and then wrapped themselves around the tree trunk when it got hot the animals even moved to different trees that had cooler trunks she said the trees are probably cooler because of the water they suck up from the ground the koala's cooling technique could be one way for humans to survive increasingly hot summers

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1406/140606-koalas.html>

Scientists have unlocked one of these secrets as to how koalas stay cool and avoid dehydration in the intense heat of Australian summers. They hug trees. For decades people thought the cuddly marsupials clung to trees simply because they were tired and wanted somewhere to nap. Researchers from Melbourne University have now cast new light on the tree-hugging habits of the koala. Lead researcher Natalie Briscoe said there is a five-degree difference in temperature between a tree trunk and the air. Koalas utilize the cooler surface by spreading themselves out on large branches or by hugging the trunk. Ms Briscoe said: "Access to these trees can save about half the water a koala would need to keep cool on a hot day." Briscoe studied the behaviour of 37 koalas on an island off the Melbourne coast. She is part of a team trying to identify how koalas might survive higher temperatures brought by global warming. Her observations and conclusions regarding the cooling effects of the trees came as a surprise to her. She noted that the koalas sat upright in cooler weather, hugged branches when it became warmer, and then wrapped themselves around the tree trunk when it got hot. The animal even moved to different trees that had cooler trunks. She said the trees are probably cooler because of the water they suck up from the ground. The koala's cooling technique could be one way for humans to survive increasingly hot summers.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about koalas. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. KOALAS: Make a poster about koalas. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. STAYING COOL: Write a magazine article about staying cool in the summer heat. Include imaginary interviews with experts at staying cool.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to a koala expert. Ask him/her three questions about koalas. Give him/her three ideas on how to protect them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b F c T d T e F f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. secrets | a. mysteries |
| 2. avoid | b. steer clear of |
| 3. cuddly | c. huggable |
| 4. cast | d. thrown |
| 5. save | e. conserve |
| 6. behaviour | f. actions |
| 7. identify | g. establish |
| 8. upright | h. erect |
| 9. probably | i. in all likelihood |
| 10. survive | j. get through |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Unlocked it
2. Decades
3. New light
4. 5 degrees
5. Half
6. 37
7. Surprised
8. They were cooler
9. They suck it up from the ground
10. Hotter summers

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. d 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)