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**Level 1** – 3rd November, 2022

## Bees like playing with balls, study finds

**FREE** online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221103-bees-and-balls-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221103-bees-and-balls-1.html>

We all know the English saying "as busy as a bee," but we don't know how bees play. Scientists found a way that bees might relax after a busy day making honey. The scientists did different tests on bees playing with different things. The bees liked playing with small balls. The bees played a little like humans. Younger bees played with more balls than older bees. Adult males played with balls for longer than females did. Bees are the first known insects to "play".

The scientists did tests on 45 bumblebees. The bees had two options. One was to go straight to a sugary treat. The second was to get to the treat after going around coloured wooden balls. Most of the bees played with the balls first. A researcher said: "Bees are a million miles from the...unfeeling creatures they are traditionally believed to be." She added that there are strong signs to show that insect minds are a lot more advanced than we thought.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/oct/27/bumblebees-playing-wooden-balls-bees-study>  
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/ball-rolling-bumble-bees-just-wanna-have-fun/>  
<https://www.science.org/content/article/are-these-bumble-bees-playing-toys>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221103-bees-and-balls-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. We all know the              | a. with small balls |
| 2. as busy as                   | b. bees play        |
| 3. we don't know how            | c. making honey     |
| 4. a way that bees              | d. for longer       |
| 5. after a busy day             | e. English saying   |
| 6. The scientists did different | f. might relax      |
| 7. The bees liked playing       | g. a bee            |
| 8. males played with balls      | h. tests on bees    |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. scientists did tests      | a. miles            |
| 2. The bees                  | b. minds            |
| 3. a sugary                  | c. the bees         |
| 4. Most of                   | d. than we thought  |
| 5. a million                 | e. on 45 bumblebees |
| 6. there are strong signs to | f. treat            |
| 7. insect                    | g. show that        |
| 8. a lot more advanced       | h. had two options  |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221103-bees-and-balls-1.html>

We all know the English saying "as (1) \_\_\_\_\_ bee," but we don't know how bees play. Scientists (2) \_\_\_\_\_ that bees might relax after a busy day making honey. The scientists (3) \_\_\_\_\_ on bees playing with different things. The bees liked (4) \_\_\_\_\_ balls. The bees played a little like humans. Younger bees played with more balls (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Adult males played with balls for longer than females did. Bees are (6) \_\_\_\_\_ insects to "play".

The scientists (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 45 bumblebees. The bees had two options. One was to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a sugary treat. The second was to get to the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ around coloured wooden balls. Most of the bees played with the balls first. A researcher said: "Bees are (10) \_\_\_\_\_ from the...unfeeling creatures they are traditionally believed to be." She added (11) \_\_\_\_\_ strong signs to show that insect minds are a lot more advanced (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221103-bees-and-balls-1.html>

We all know the English saying "as busy as a bee," but we don't know how bees play. Scientists found a way that bees might relax after a busy day making honey. The scientists did different tests on bees playing with different things. The bees liked playing with small balls. The bees played a little like humans. Younger bees played with more balls than older bees. Adult males played with balls for longer than females did. Bees are the first known insect to "play". The scientists did tests on 45 bumblebees. The bees had two options. One was to go straight to a sugary treat. The second was to get to the treat after going around coloured wooden balls. Most of the bees played with the balls first. A researcher said: "Bees are a million miles from the...unfeeling creatures they are traditionally believed to be." She added that there are strong signs to show that insect minds are a lot more advanced than we thought.

# BEES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221103-bees-and-balls-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bees 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Bees like playing with balls, study finds – 3rd November, 2022*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

