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Level 2 – 3rd November, 2022

Bees like playing with balls, study finds

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221103-bees-and-balls-2.html>

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

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221103-bees-and-balls-2.html>

Bees are very busy. We all know the English saying "as busy as a bee". However, we know little about how bees play. Scientists have found one way that bees might relax after a busy day making honey - they play with balls. The scientists did different tests on bees playing with different things. The insects liked playing with wooden balls. The researchers said bees played a little like humans. Younger bees played with more balls than older bees, while adult males played with balls for longer than adult females did. The bees are the first known insects to "play".

The scientists did tests on 45 bumblebees. The bees had two options. The first was to fly or walk directly to a sugary treat. The second choice was to get to the treat after going around coloured wooden balls. Most of the bees decided to play with the balls for their treat. A scientist said the tests showed that bees are more thoughtful than we knew. She said: "Bees are a million miles from the...unfeeling creatures they are traditionally believed to be." She added that there is "a strong indication that insect minds are far more sophisticated than we might imagine".

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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bees are very | a. honey |
| 2. as busy as a | b. how bees play |
| 3. we know little about | c. like humans |
| 4. Scientists have | d. bee |
| 5. relax after a busy day making | e. with different things |
| 6. tests on bees playing | f. busy |
| 7. bees played a little | g. for longer |
| 8. adult males played with balls | h. found one way |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The scientists did tests | a. to a sugary treat |
| 2. The bees had | b. more sophisticated |
| 3. fly or walk directly | c. with the balls |
| 4. going around coloured | d. miles |
| 5. Most of the bees decided to play | e. two options |
| 6. bees are more thoughtful | f. wooden balls |
| 7. a million | g. than we knew |
| 8. insect minds are far | h. on 45 bumblebees |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221103-bees-and-balls-2.html>

Bees are very busy. (1) _____ the English saying "as busy as a bee". However, we know little about how bees play. Scientists have (2) _____ that bees might relax after a busy day making honey - they play with balls. The scientists (3) _____ on bees playing with different things. The insects liked playing with wooden balls. The researchers said bees played (4) _____ humans. Younger bees played with more (5) _____ bees, while adult males played with balls for longer than adult females did. The bees are (6) _____ insects to "play".

The scientists (7) _____ 45 bumblebees. The bees had two options. The first was to (8) _____ directly to a sugary treat. The second choice was to get to the (9) _____ around coloured wooden balls. Most of the bees decided to play with the balls (10) _____. A scientist said the tests showed that bees are more thoughtful than we knew. She said: "Bees are (11) _____ from the...unfeeling creatures they are traditionally believed to be." She added that there is "a strong indication that insect minds (12) _____ sophisticated than we might imagine".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221103-bees-and-balls-2.html>

Bees are very busy. We all know the English saying "as busy as a bee". However, we know little about how bees play. Scientists have found one way that bees might relax after a busy day making honey - they play with balls. The scientists did different tests on bees playing with different things. The insects liked playing with wooden balls. The researchers said bees played a little like humans. Younger bees played with more balls than older bees, while adult males played with balls for longer than adult females did. The bees are the first known insect to "play". The scientists did tests on 45 bumblebees. The bees had two options. The first was to fly or walk directly to a sugary treat. The second choice was to go to the treat after going around a coloured wooden ball. Most of the bees decided to play with the balls for their treat. A scientist said the tests showed that bees are more thoughtful than we knew. She said: "Bees are a million miles from the...unfeeling creatures they are traditionally believed to be." She added that there is "a strong indication that insect minds are far more sophisticated than we might imagine".

BEES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2211/221103-bees-and-balls-2.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) _____

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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) _____

