

Bee story

Language

Insect vocabulary, Pronouns, Spelling

Level

Pre-Intermediate; (equivalent to CEF level A2)

Comment

This lesson is about different recent news stories related to bees. The activity can be followed up with a discussion about the implications of the disappearing bee population.

How to use the lesson

- 1 Write the newspaper headlines from exercise 1 on the board. Explain that the same word is missing from each headline. Can students guess the missing word?
- 2 Give students copies of the worksheet and ask them to check or find the answer in exercise 1 by quickly reading the article. Make sure all the students know what a bee is and then ask them to do exercise 2 in which they match the headlines with the corresponding paragraphs. Check answers.
- 3 The students read the article more slowly to find the answers to the questions in exercise 3. When they finish, they compare answers with a partner and then write three more questions based on the text to ask another student pair. Invite some students to read out their questions and encourage the rest of the class to answer them.
- 4 Students complete exercise 4. Ask them to check their answers by finding the sentences in the article.
- 5 In pairs, students read the definitions in exercise 5 and find the words in the article. Check answers.
- 6 Ask students to name as many insects as they can and write their suggestions on the board. Add your own words, trying to include the insect names that appear in the next exercise. Then clean the board before asking students to do exercise 6.
- 7 Ask the class to look at exercise 8 and discuss whether or not the statement from the text is true. Does the author of the text think it's true? (He isn't sure.) If students have access to the Internet they can look for the answer online by entering the question in a search engine: *Do bees dance?*
- 8 In exercise 8 students answer the question at the start of the article. Have they ever talked to someone about an unusual subject and then discovered that lots of other people are talking and writing about the same thing? They share their answer with other students and then discuss the pros and cons of keeping bees. Would they like to keep bees?
- 9 You can end the class by teaching these three bee idioms to your students.
Busy as a bee (to be very busy)
To think you are the bee's knees (to think you are very clever)
To have a bee in your bonnet (to think something is very important and think or talk a lot about it)

Reading eLesson

Week starting 7 June 2010

Answer key

1 bee(s)

2

1 paragraph 6 3 paragraph 5
2 paragraph 3 4 paragraph 4

3

1 Yes.
2 Antarctica.
3 A restaurant in New York.
4 Two.
5 Mobile phones might be responsible for the fall in the bee population.
6 £200 million.

4

1 someone 3 everywhere 5 somewhere
2 something 4 No-one

5

1 honey 3 continent 5 population
2 hive 4 dramatic 6 crops

6

1 fly 3 cockroach 5 beetle
2 ant 4 butterfly 6 wasp

7

It's true. They communicate about the location of food by dancing.

8

Students' own answers.

Related websites

The following websites might be useful, for either yourself or your students.

<http://www.britishbee.org.uk/> (The British Beekeepers' Association)

<http://www.ibra.org.uk/> (International Bee Research Association)