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Level 5

Koalas hug trees to stay cool

6th June, 2014

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

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

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

Scientists have unlocked the koala's secret of staying cool and avoiding dehydration in intense heat. They hug trees. For decades people thought the cuddly animals clung to trees to sleep. Researchers from Melbourne University have now cast new light on why they hug trees. Lead researcher Natalie Briscoe said a tree trunk is 5 degrees cooler than the air around it. Koalas use the cooler surface by spreading themselves out on large branches or by hugging the trunk. Ms Briscoe said: "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 off the Melbourne coast. She wanted to find out how koalas might survive global warming. Her conclusions regarding the cooling effects of the trees surprised her. Koalas sat upright in cooler weather, hugged branches when it became warmer, and wrapped themselves around tree trunks when it got hot. They even moved to different trees that had cooler trunks. She said trees are cooler because of the water they suck up from the ground. The koala's cooling technique could help us 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>

MATCHING

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

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Scientists have unlocked | a. surface |
| 2. staying | b. on |
| 3. avoiding dehydration | c. the koala's secret |
| 4. cast new light | d. cool |
| 5. 5 degrees | e. a koala would need |
| 6. use the cooler | f. on large branches |
| 7. spreading themselves out | g. in intense heat |
| 8. save about half the water | h. cooler |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. studied the behaviour | a. global warming |
| 2. off the Melbourne | b. had cooler trunks |
| 3. how koalas might survive | c. upright |
| 4. the cooling | d. coast |
| 5. Koalas sat | e. up from the ground |
| 6. moved to different trees that | f. of 37 koalas |
| 7. the water they suck | g. hot summers |
| 8. survive increasingly | h. effects of the trees |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

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

Scientists have unlocked the koala's (1) _____ cool and avoiding dehydration (2) _____. They hug trees. For decades people thought the cuddly animals clung to trees to sleep. Researchers from Melbourne University have now (3) _____ why they hug trees. Lead researcher Natalie Briscoe said a tree trunk is 5 degrees cooler than (4) _____. Koalas use the cooler surface by (5) _____ out on large branches or by hugging the trunk. Ms Briscoe said: "Trees can save about half the water a koala would (6) _____ a hot day."

Briscoe (7) _____ of 37 koalas off the Melbourne coast. She wanted (8) _____ koalas might survive global warming. Her conclusions regarding the (9) _____ the trees surprised her. Koalas sat upright in cooler weather, hugged branches when it became warmer, (10) _____ around tree trunks when it got hot. They even moved to different (11) _____ cooler trunks. She said trees are cooler because of the water they suck up from the ground. The koala's cooling technique could help us (12) _____ summers.

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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)

