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Level 4

Koalas hug trees to stay cool

6th June, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140606-koalas-4.html>

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Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140606-koalas-4.html>

Scientists have unlocked the koala's secret of staying cool and avoiding dehydration in intense heat. They hug trees. The cuddly animals do not cling to trees just to sleep. Researchers cast new light on why they hug trees. A tree trunk is 5 degrees cooler than the air around it. Koalas spread themselves out on the cooler surfaces of large branches or the trunk. Trees can save koalas half the water they would need to keep cool on a hot day.

Researchers studied the behaviour of 37 koalas to find out how they might survive global warming. The results were surprising. Koalas sat up in cool weather, hugged branches when it became warmer, and wrapped themselves around tree trunks when it got hot. They moved to trees with cooler trunks. Trees are cooler because they suck up water from the ground. The koala's cooling technique could help people survive hotter 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-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Scientists have unlocked | a. in intense heat |
| 2 staying | b. cooler |
| 3. avoiding dehydration | c. the koala's secret |
| 4. cast new light on | d. they would need |
| 5. 5 degrees | e. cool |
| 6. save koalas half the water | f. why they hug trees |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Researchers studied the | a. global warming |
| 2 how they might survive | b. surprising |
| 3. The results were | c. technique |
| 4. They moved to trees | d. behaviour of 37 koalas |
| 5. they suck up water | e. with cooler trunks |
| 6. The koala's cooling | f. from the ground |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140606-koalas-4.html>

Scientists have unlocked the koala's (1) _____ cool and avoiding dehydration in intense heat. They hug trees. The cuddly animals do not (2) _____ to sleep. Researchers cast new light on why they hug trees. A tree trunk is (3) _____ than the air around it. Koalas spread themselves out (4) _____ of large branches or the trunk. Trees can save koalas (5) _____ would need (6) _____ hot day.

Researchers (7) _____ of 37 koalas to find out how they might (8) _____. The results were surprising. Koalas sat up in cool weather, (9) _____ it became warmer, and wrapped themselves around tree trunks (10) _____. They moved to trees with cooler trunks. Trees are cooler because (11) _____ from the ground. The koala's (12) _____ help people survive hotter summers.

KOALAS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140606-koalas-4.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)

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1406/140606-koalas-4.html>

Write about **koalas** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.
