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Level 2

Scientists find out how flamingos stand on one leg

26th May, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos-2.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

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

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos-2.html>

Scientists think they have found how flamingos stand on one leg. We all love the image of these beautiful birds doing this. The reason why the birds do this has always puzzled scientists. Researchers in the USA say they have found this secret of the natural world. A professor says a flamingo can stand on one leg for many hours because of its skeleton. The flamingo's hips and leg bones are in a special position that gives the bird great balance. The professor said the flamingo's bones help it to stand on one leg. Flamingos do not have to use their muscles a lot to do this.

Another researcher said the flamingo is unique because it can stand still for a long time on one leg. It is very difficult for a human to stay still, even for an hour. The researcher said most of us don't know that we're moving all the time. Even when we stand still, our muscles always work to keep us straight so we don't fall over. The position of the bones in a flamingo means the birds do not need to use so many muscles to keep still. They can save energy. The researchers say that saving energy could be the reason why other birds also stand on one leg.

Sources: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/how-flamingo-balances-one-leg>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-40016816>
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/nature/808240/flamingos-one-leg-Iconic-pose-animal-kingdom-explained-research>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. We all love the image of these | a. in a special position |
| 2. this has always puzzled | b. stand on one leg |
| 3. the natural | c. scientists |
| 4. stand on one leg for | d. muscles a lot |
| 5. The flamingo's hips and leg bones are | e. world |
| 6. gives the bird great | f. many hours |
| 7. the flamingo's bones help it to | g. beautiful birds |
| 8. Flamingos do not have to use their | h. balance |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Another researcher said the | a. that we're moving |
| 2. it can stand | b. an hour |
| 3. even for | c. energy |
| 4. most of us don't know | d. keep us straight |
| 5. our muscles always work to | e. flamingo is unique |
| 6. so we don't fall | f. the reason |
| 7. They can save | g. still for a long time |
| 8. saving energy could be | h. over |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos-2.html>

Scientists (1) _____ found how flamingos stand on one leg. We all love (2) _____ these beautiful birds doing this. The reason why the birds do (3) _____ puzzled scientists. Researchers in the USA say they have found this (4) _____ natural world. A professor says a flamingo can stand on one leg for many hours because of its skeleton. The flamingo's (5) _____ bones are in a special position that gives the bird great balance. The professor said the flamingo's bones help it to stand on one leg. Flamingos do not have to use their (6) _____ to do this.

Another researcher said the flamingo (7) _____ because it can stand still (8) _____ time on one leg. It is very difficult for a human to stay still, even for an hour. The researcher said (9) _____ don't know that we're moving all the time. Even when we stand still, our muscles always work to (10) _____ so we don't fall over. The position of the bones in a flamingo means the birds do not need to use (11) _____ to keep still. They can save energy. The researchers say that saving energy could (12) _____ why other birds also stand on one leg.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos-2.html>

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FLAMINGOS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1705/170526-flamingos-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about flamingos 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) _____

