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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 4
Plants can make intelligent decisions

4th July, 2016

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1607/160704-decisions-4.html

Contents

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

Plants are smarter than we think. They can make 'intelligent' decisions. The simple pea plant can decide how best to survive, but it does not have a brain. Researchers grew several pea plants that had roots in two different pots, each containing different amounts of nutrients. One pot always had the same amount, while the other had different amounts. The plants were very consistent. Their roots almost always went to the pot with the most nutrients.

The research paper will be published soon. A researcher said it, "raises a question, not about plants, but about animals and humans". He thought the pea plant might be more efficient when making decisions than humans. He said: "We have a very fancy brain, but maybe most of the time we're not using it." It would be interesting to see how our lives would be different if we made decisions like the pea plant.

Sources: http://**gizmodo.com**/plants-can-make-some-decisions-better-than-humans-1782946737
http://www.**techtimes.com**/articles/168007/20160701/pea-plants-show-ability-to-take-risks-and-gamble-for-nutrients.htm
http://www.**wired.co.uk**/article/pea-plants-can-gamble

PHRASE MATCHING

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1.	decide how	a.	different amounts
2.	it does not have a	b.	amount
3.	pea	c.	consistent
4.	two different pots, each containing	d.	plants
5.	One pot always had the same	e.	most nutrients
6.	the other	f.	best to survive
7.	The plants were very	g.	brain
8.	the pot with the	h.	had different amounts

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1.	research	a.	lives would be different
2.	published	b.	question
3.	it raises a	c.	like the pea plant
4.	be more	d.	soon
5.	We have a very fancy	e.	paper
6.	most of the time we're not	f.	efficient
7.	see how our	g.	using it
8.	made decisions	h.	brain

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

Plants are (1) _____ think. They can make 'intelligent' decisions. The simple pea plant can (2) _____ to survive, but it does not have a brain. Researchers (3) _____ pea plants that had roots in two different pots, each containing different amounts of nutrients. One pot always had (4) _____, while the other had different amounts. The plants were (5) _____. Their roots almost always went to the pot (6) _____ nutrients.

The research paper will be (7) _____. A researcher said it, "(8) _____, not about plants, but about animals and humans". He thought the pea plant might (9) _____ when making decisions than humans. He said: "We have (10) _____, but maybe most of the time we're not using it." It would be interesting (11) _____ lives would be different if we made (12) _____ pea plant.

PUT A SLASH (/)WHERE THE SPACES ARE

Plantsaresmarterthanwethink.Theycanmake'intelligent'decisions.T

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DECISIONS SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about decisions 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) _____

WRITING

Write about **decisions** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

_____

_____

_____