New research shows that bees may be more intelligent than we previously thought and that they like to play! Watch the video to find out more.

Before reading
Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task
Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. ..... an indication
2. ..... sophisticated
3. ..... inanimate
4. ..... cooperatively
5. ..... a hive
6. ..... pollination
7. ..... a workhorse
8. ..... inducement

Definition

a. together with others towards a shared aim
b. the reason for doing something
c. intelligent and able to do complex tasks
d. someone who does a lot of work, especially difficult or boring work
e. a sign that something is true
f. the process in which pollen is taken from one plant to another so that new seeds can be produced
g. a place where bees live
h. not living
Tasks

**Task 1**
Are the sentences true or false?

1. The research shows that bees are less intelligent than we previously imagined.  
   **Answer** True False
2. This is the first time that researchers have seen bees playing.  
   **Answer** True False
3. Bees in hives usually work independently and alone.  
   **Answer** True False
4. Bees are essential for the environment because they pollinate plants.  
   **Answer** True False
5. The bees’ ages made a difference in how much they enjoyed playing.  
   **Answer** True False
6. Female bees rolled the balls for a longer time than male bees.  
   **Answer** True False

**Task 2**
Put the words and phrases in order to make sentences.

1. playing with and dogs Bumblebees enjoy as humans do. balls, just

2. imagined. Insect minds more sophisticated might have are far than we

3. are more The research suggests we previously complex than thought. that their minds

4. known cooperatively Bees in hives. to work are

5. and brains, they’re just being just nature’s workhorses. their tiny size far from Despite

6. without The bees inducement. showed any extra their playful side

**Discussion**
What are your favourite insects?
Answers

Preparation task
1. e
2. c
3. h
4. a
5. g
6. f
7. d
8. b

Task 1
1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. False

Task 2
1. Bumblebees enjoy playing with balls, just as humans and dogs do.
2. Insect minds are far more sophisticated than we might have imagined.
3. The research suggests that their minds are more complex than we previously thought.
4. Bees are known to work cooperatively in hives.
5. Despite their tiny size and brains, they’re far from being just nature’s workhorses.
6. The bees showed their playful side without any extra inducement.