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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Take Away English 隨身英語

### The importance of bees

### 蜜蜂的重要性

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詞彙 : *bees and wildlife* 蜜蜂與野生動植物

How do you feel about bees? Do you get irritated when they **buzz** around you and do you fear their mission is just to **sting** you? Love them or loathe them, these little **insects** are extremely important creatures, and without them we might starve.

Bees deserve some respect – they give us honey, and they play their part either **pollinating** the many vegetables and fruits we eat directly or pollinating the food for the animals that we then consume. In fact, they are the world’s most important **pollinators**. That’s not all – a study by the University of Reading in the UK, found bees and other pollinating insects have a global economic value of around £120bn (\$150bn) and contribute around £690m (\$850m) to the UK economy every year.

So, bees are worth protecting, and although a small number of bee **species** are vital for crops such as **oilseed rape**, apples and strawberries, experts say we should be taking care of all our bees. Researchers say **conservation** efforts should be aimed at a wide number of species – even those that currently contribute little to crop pollination – in order to maintain **biodiversity** and ensure future food security.

Unfortunately, in recent times, bee populations have been declining due to **pesticides**, **parasites**, disease and **habitat loss**. It’s something we should be worried about because, as Gill Perkins, chief executive of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, told BBC Future website: “They provide a whole **ecosystem** service.” The recent lockdowns caused by the coronavirus pandemic seem to have given bee populations a little boost because they faced less human disturbance, traffic and polluting fumes.

Conservationists hope, going forward, people will appreciate bees more and encourage them to **thrive** as they reconnect with **nature**. Gill Perkins says, “They are beginning to realise how their mental health and wellbeing is supported by nature – particularly by **bumblebees**, which are so iconic and beautiful and buzzy.” So, it really seems time to **give** bees a **second chance**.

詞彙表

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buzz

嗡嗡地叫

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sting	叮，蜇
insect	昆蟲
pollinate	給（植物）傳授花粉
pollinator	傳粉昆蟲
species	物種
oilseed rape	歐洲油菜
conservation	（對動植物的）保護
biodiversity	生物多樣性
pesticide	農藥，殺蟲劑
parasite	寄生生物
habitat loss	棲息地流失
ecosystem	生態系統
thrive	繁衍生息，茁壯成長
nature	自然
bumblebee	大黃蜂
give (something or someone) a second chance	再給（某物或人）一次機會

## 測驗與練習

### 1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. What do bees do to the fruits and vegetables we eat?
2. How much global economic value are pollinating insects thought to have?
3. What reasons have contributed to the decline in bee populations?
4. True or false? *Gill Perkins says reconnecting with nature helps improve the mental health of bumblebees.*
5. How many bee species are responsible for pollinating crops like oilseed rape?

### 2. 選擇意思恰當的單詞或片語來完成下列句子。

1. A rare \_\_\_\_\_ of bird has been found in the Amazon rainforest.

parasites	species	biodiversity	nature
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2. A \_\_\_\_\_ project has helped increase the elephant population in Africa.

conservationist	conservational	conservation	conserve
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3. This plant \_\_\_\_\_ in shady areas so should be perfect for your garden.

thrives pollinates	ecosystem	parasites
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4. I was going to dump my boyfriend but decided to \_\_\_\_\_.

give him a seconds chance	gave him a second chance
given him a second chances	give him a second chance

5. Since the farmer sprayed \_\_\_\_\_ on his crops, people nearby have been complaining of breathing difficulties.

parasites	pesticides	oilseed rape	pollinators
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## 答案

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. What do bees do to the fruits and vegetables we eat?

**They pollinate them.**

2. How much global economic value are pollinating insects thought to have?

**A study by the University of Reading in the UK, found bees and other pollinating insects have a global economic value of around £120bn (\$150bn).**

3. What reasons have contributed to the decline in bee populations?

**In recent times, bee populations have been declining due to pesticides, parasites, disease and habitat loss.**

4. True or false? *Gill Perkins says reconnecting with nature helps improve the mental health of bumblebees.*

**False. She said people are beginning to realise how their mental health and wellbeing is supported by nature.**

5. How many bee species are responsible for pollinating crops like oilseed rape?

**Only a small number of bee species are vital for crops such as oilseed rape, apples and strawberries.**

2. 選擇意思恰當的單詞或片語來完成下列句子。

1. A rare **species** of bird has been found in the Amazon rainforest.

2. A **conservation** project has helped increase the elephant population in Africa.

3. This plant **thrives** in shady areas so should be perfect for your garden.

4. I was going to dump my boyfriend but decided to **give him a second chance**.

5. Since the farmer sprayed **pesticides** on his crops, people nearby have been complaining of breathing difficulties.