Pre-Intermediate 2
Unit 6 Reading
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The Miracle of Sight

miracle (noun) = an unusual and mysterious event that is thought to have been caused by God
- *Muslims believe that the Holy Quran is the miracle of Prophet Mohammad.*

sight (noun) = vision, the ability to see
sighted (adjective) = able to see
sightless (adjective) = blind, unsighted

When a butterfly hovers near a bush, you can see both its beautiful colors and shape. And if it folds its wings and clings quietly to a flower, you can see it better. You may see the lines and spots on its wings and its round, shining dark eyes.

Butterfly

Bush

hover = stay in the sky
bush = a small plant
bush = an area of land full of bushes
fold = bend something over on itself so that one part of it covers another
- *Tom folded up the map.*

cling to something = hold something
spot (noun) = mark, point = a small, usually round area of color that is differently colored or lighter or darker than the surface around it

But do you know that most animals cannot see color? Only some mammals, such as apes and monkeys, and birds, can see color. Birds need to see color in order to judge distance, so they can catch bugs or alight on branches. But to other animals, such as dogs, the world looks like a black and white television show.

mammals = animals that feed their babies with milk
such as = for example, like
in order to do something = with the aim or purpose of doing something
judge distance = know how far something is

so = therefore
bug = a very small insect
alight = land
look like = resemble

Some other animals and insects can only see things when they move. A butterfly will not see you unless you move. This insect sees your moving hair as a mass of ropes to cling to. Dogs, like butterflies, see best when things move. The animals they hunt seem to know this. A hunted rabbit or deer freezes so that the dog will not see or injure it. Hunted animals attempt to protect themselves this way.

unless you move = if you don't move
unless = if not
as = like
mass = pile
deer (plural deer) = an animal with long legs that eats grass, leaves, etc. and can run fast. Most male deer have antlers (= parts on their heads that are like branches in shape).
freeze = stop

- The police officer shouted, "Freeze!"

attempt = try
protect = keep somebody safe

Even the shape and location of the eyes of some animals and insects fit their requirements. The pupil of a horse's eyes, for instance, is long from side to side to help it see its enemies on either side. In cats and foxes, the pupil is long from top to bottom to allow them to see a bird up the tree or a mouse in the grass. Some small bugs even have their eyes located on the tips of their feelers. They are so much in danger that they need to see around things before moving ahead.

fit = be suitable for, match
requirements = needs
pupil = the black spot in your eye
pupil (British) = a student at school, not at university

The Pupil of a Horse's Eyes

The Pupil of a Cat's Eyes

for instance = for example

allow somebody to do something = let somebody do something; enable somebody to do something
tip = the top part
feeler = one of the two long parts on the head of an insect and some other creatures with which it touches things in order to discover what is around it

Stalk-Eyed Fly

So, animals have developed sight according to their needs, and scientists have discovered enough unusual facts about their sight to fill us with wonder. However, scientists say there is a lot more they have to discover.

according to = based on
discover = find out
fill somebody with wonder = to surprise somebody
however = but

Main Ideas:

- Most animals cannot see color.
- Only some mammals and birds can see color. Other animals see the world in black and white.
- Birds need to see color in order to know how far things are.
- Some animals like dogs and some insects like butterflies can see only moving things.
- The shape and the location of the eyes of animals are according to their needs.
- The pupils of a horse are long from side to side so that the horse can see a wide view of its enemies.
- The pupils of cats and foxes are long from top to bottom so that they can see things up the trees or things down in the grass.
- The eyes of some bugs are on the tips of their feelers and they can have a 360-degree-view of things. They can see their enemies behind them.
- Scientists haven’t discovered everything about animal eyesight yet.

Full Text:

The Miracle of Sight

When a butterfly hovers near a bush, you can see both its beautiful colors and shape. And if it folds its wings and clings quietly to a flower, you can see it better. You may see the lines and spots on its wings and its round, shining dark eyes.

But do you know that most animals cannot see color? Only some mammals, such as apes and monkeys, and birds, can see color. Birds need to see color in order to judge distance, so they can catch bugs or alight on branches. But to other animals, such as dogs, the world looks like a black and white television show.

Some other animals and insects can only see things when they move. A butterfly will not see you unless you move. This insect sees your moving hair as a mass of ropes to cling to. Dogs, like butterflies, see best when things move. The animals they hunt seem to know this. A hunted rabbit or deer freezes so that the dog will not see or injure it. Hunted animals attempt to protect themselves this way.

Even the shape and location of the eyes of some animals and insects fit their requirements. The pupil of a horse's eyes, for instance, is long from side to side to help it see its enemies on either side. In cats and foxes, the pupil is long from top to bottom to allow them to see a bird up the tree or a mouse in the grass. Some small bugs even have their eyes located on the tips of their feelers. They are so much in danger that they need to see around things before moving ahead.

So, animals have developed sight according to their needs, and scientists have discovered enough unusual facts about their sight to fill us with wonder. However, scientists say there is a lot more they have to discover.

Sample Summary:
The text discusses how the sight of different animals and insects varies depending on their needs and environments. It starts by comparing the human ability to see color with that of other animals, and explains that only some mammals and birds can see color, while others, such as dogs, see the world in black and white. It then moves on to talk about how movement affects the vision of some animals and insects, such as butterflies and dogs, and how their prey use stillness as a survival strategy. Next, it describes how the shape and location of the eyes of some animals and insects are adapted to their specific requirements, such as the horse’s wide pupil that allows it to see its enemies on either side, or the bug’s eyes on the tips of its feelers that enable it to see around obstacles. Finally, it concludes by stating that there are many more fascinating facts and mysteries about animal vision that scientists have yet to discover.

Sample Summary (in Simple English):
This text talks about how animals see the world in different ways. For example, while we can see the beautiful colors of a butterfly, most animals cannot see colors. Only some mammals and birds can see colors, which helps birds judge distance when catching food or landing on branches. For other animals like dogs, the world looks black and white. Some animals and insects can only see things that move. A butterfly will not see you unless you move. Dogs also

see best when things move. This helps hunted animals like rabbits or deer, which freeze to avoid being seen by dogs. The shape and position of animals' eyes match their needs. Horses have pupils which are long from side to side to help them see their enemies on either side. Cats and foxes have pupils that are long from top to bottom, allowing them to see things above or below. Some small insects have eyes on their feelers to see around things and stay safe. Scientists have learned a lot about how animals see, but there is still much more to discover about the amazing ways animals view their world.

Source:

Pre-Intermediate 2 (anglophone.ir)