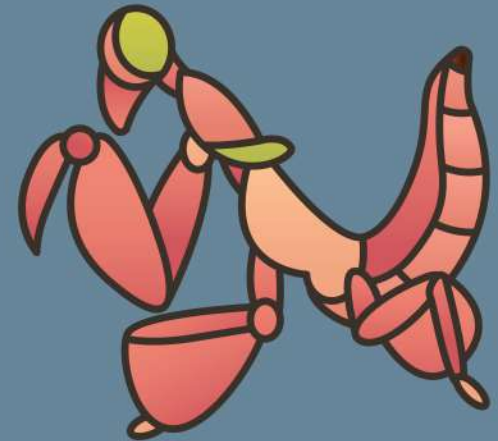
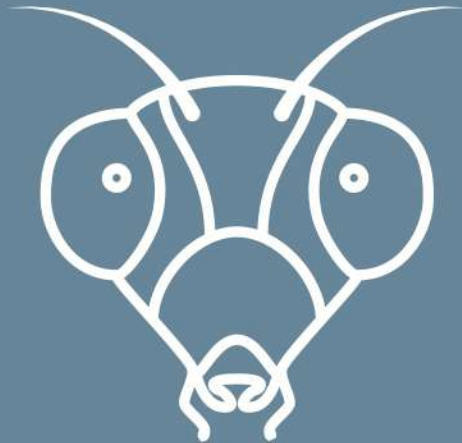


Super English

Level 5 - Unit 15
Insects - Lesson 4





Vocabulary

Insects - Vocabulary



ambush: a surprise attack by one or more beings who have been hiding and waiting for them (v)



The soldiers hid and waited for the enemy to walk past so they could **ambush** them.

Insects - Vocabulary



camouflage: a way of hiding by blending in with your surroundings (n)



The spider uses its **camouflage** to hide and ambush its prey.

Insects - Vocabulary



cannibal: an animal that feeds on flesh of its own species (n)



The leaf beetle is a **cannibal** and feasts on another beetle for lunch.

Insects - Vocabulary



nibble: a taking very small bites of something (v)



I like watching squirrels **nibble** on the nuts they find in my yard.



Let's
Read!

Praying Mantis



With its front legs folding like it is praying, the praying mantis is a master of deception. The praying mantis doesn't look like a threat, but it is an **ambush** predator with lightning speed.

Nearly 2000 species of praying mantises are found around the world, each one a voracious carnivore and able to kill prey up to three times its size. The mantis feeds mostly on living insects, mice, frogs, snakes, lizards, and soft-shelled turtles. And even birds cannot escape the speed and precision of the praying mantis.

Praying Mantis



The mantis uses camouflage to blend into its environment. Mantises on the ground are spotted gray and brown to blend in with rocks and soil. In contrast, those in trees are camouflaged to mimic leaves, flowers, twigs, or bark. This camouflage allows them to sneak up on their prey or lie in wait near flowers that insects are likely to visit.

Mantises have sharp spikes beneath their front limbs that are used to stab their prey. They wait patiently until their prey comes close enough to strike. Then they lash out with their front legs at unbelievable speed, releasing a forceful strike. The spikes on its legs easily go through the victim's exoskeleton or skin, so it cannot escape.



Praying Mantis



Once the mantis has a deadly grip on its prey, it begins to slowly chew, often while the prey is still alive, and usually the head first! Its mandibles are strong and sharp enough to cut human flesh. After it finishes its meal, the killer cleans and **nibbles** at the spikes on its legs. It makes sure they stay sharp and healthy for the next hunt.

Most mantises are also **cannibals**. That means they will eat each other. If the female is starving, she will even eat the male after they finish mating.

Praying Mantis



The mantis is a fantastic predator, but it also becomes prey at times. The giant hornet in Japan has a toughly armored 2-inch body that is topped off with sharp, cutting jaws and a 6 mm long stinger that makes it one of the only insects that can kill the praying mantis.

If it encounters a tarantula spider, the two of them will fight, and the winner will eat the loser. It also has the same relationship with mice, scorpions, snakes, lizards, and frogs. This even happens with small hummingbirds. Sometimes it eats the bird, but sometimes the bird eats the mantis. But people are their biggest threat, using chemicals that kill them.





Let's do
Grammar!

(be) supposed to (past)

We use the past tense of **(be) suppose to + infinitive** to state things that did/didn't happen in the past. It can be positive or negative.

1. I **was supposed to clean** my room, but I forgot.
2. It **wasn't supposed to snow** this week, but it did.
3. They **were supposed to come** to my house today, but they didn't.



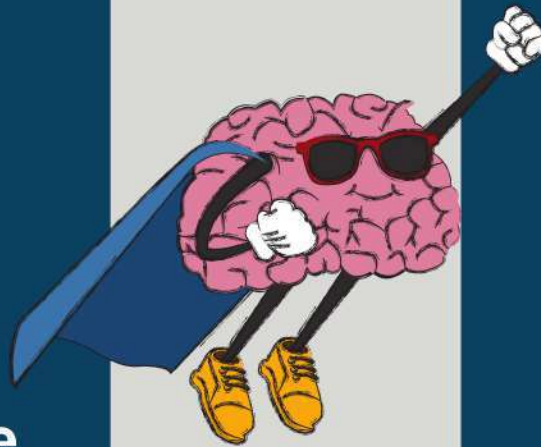


Phonics

Phonics

We add the prefix **"im"** and **"in"** to the front of words to mean **"not."**

impossible
immature
impolite
immoral
impure
immeasurable
imperfect



indirect
inactive
invalid
inadequate
incorrect
incapable
infrequent

Super English

See you
Next time!

