

# 1 Present simple and adverbs of frequency

## Reading: Animal networks

**1** Look at the photos in the article below. What do you think the article is about? Think of some words you expect to read in the article.

**2** Read the article and find out if you are right.

## How does an ant change jobs?

We all know the benefits of meeting new people and having contacts. When there's a problem, we often know someone who can help, and life is usually more interesting if we have lots of friends and acquaintances. But it's not just people who network. Ants network, too.

Ants always live in colonies\* and they do different things. Some work on nest maintenance and some carry food. An ant rarely changes its job. But sometimes things happen – rain damages the nest or some ants find extra food. When the colony needs more maintenance workers or food carriers, some ants change jobs.

Ant colonies don't have managers. The queen ant is the biggest ant and she lays eggs. But she never gives orders and nobody is in charge. So how do ants know what job to do? They network. If an ant meets a lot



of food workers, then it becomes a food worker, too so it changes jobs. The colony doesn't need a leader because the ants network. The system is very successful. Colonies survive for many years and ants cover the Earth.

*colonies:* groups of animals or plants of the same type that live and grow together

**3** Find words in the article that mean the same as these words and phrases.

- 1 good things, advantages
- 2 people you have met but do not know well
- 3 meet and communicate with new people, especially people who can be useful in your job
- 4 the place where ants live (birds live in these places, too)
- 5 affects something so it doesn't work properly
- 6 work we do to keep something in order and working properly
- 7 continue to live, don't die

**4** Answer these questions about the article.

- 1 What two benefits of networking does the article mention?
- 2 In what situations do ants change jobs?
- 3 Does the queen ant tell the other ants what to do?
- 4 How do ants know when to change jobs?

**5** Discuss with a partner.

How do organizations survive a long time in your industry? they need ...

- leaders who give orders?
- employees who network?
- something else? (what?)

**Grammar:** Present simple and adverbs of frequency

**6** Look at the article again and find examples of these things.

- 1 Two question forms
- 2 Two negative forms
- 3 Six frequency adverbs (words that tell you how often things happen)