

Cowy: Wow, the city is busy today.

Elliot: So many cars and tall buildings.

[bird chirping]

Presenter: Yes, Billy. It's very different from being out in the suburbs away from downtown. It was a great idea to do some sightseeing in the city today.

Cowy: Yes.

Elliot: Yes.

Cowy: Do you hear that buzzing sound? What is it?

Elliot: Watch out, it's a bee.

Children: Ahh.

Presenter: Wait. Don't panic, everyone. Welcome to Storytime, by Lingokids, where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of playlearning. Join us on our trip to the city and find out why bees are our friends.

Cowy: The bee is coming after us.

Elliot: It wants to sting us.

Children: Ahh.

Presenter: It's okay, everyone. Calm down. The bee doesn't want to hurt you, it's just passing by.

Cowy: How do you know?

Presenter: Bees aren't violent, Cowy.

Elliot: Sometimes they sting.

Presenter: That's true, Elliot, but they only sting if they feel attacked. They do it to protect themselves or their homes. The best thing to do is avoid fast movement and don't try to hit the bee. If it doesn't feel threatened, it shouldn't sting you.

Cowy: Oh, okay. That's good. Where do bees live?

Presenter: Well, usually they live in beehives. Bees are very hard workers and they're amazing builders. They build their own beehives by working together.

Lisa: That's a lot of work for Mr. Bee.

Presenter: Actually, Lisa, this is Miss or Mrs. B. Most bees are female, including the worker bees, and the queen of course. If you see a busy working bee, it's a female.

Elliot: This Mrs. Bee must be a very busy bee.

Presenter: Yes, Elliot. In fact, that's why we call people "busy bees" whenever they're busy and working hard, just like bees.

Cowy: Where do busy bees build their hives?

Presenter: Well, they'll usually build them in trees and areas that are near flowers.

Elliot: Why? Why do bees like flowers so much?

Presenter: Well, flowers have a liquid called nectar. It's like a sweet syrup or sugary water and bees love to eat it. In fact, it's one of the most important parts of a bee's diet.

Cowy: Oh, whoa.

Elliot: Watch out, Cowy.

Lisa: The bee landed on your shoulder.

Cowy: Oh, help me.

Presenter: Stay calm, everyone. Remember, don't make any sudden movements. The best thing you can do is stay calm so that the bee doesn't feel attacked. After all, the bee is our friend.

Cowy: Why did it land on my shoulder?

Presenter: Well, Cowy, it's probably because your shirt is a bright color. You see, bees are attracted to bright colors like purples and blues because flowers are those colors too. It's probably looking for a flower to land on.

Cowy: I'm not the flower, Mrs. Bee.

Elliot: I don't see any flowers around here.

Presenter: It's tough being a city bee because there aren't as many flowers and trees as there are in the suburbs or in the countryside. Maybe we can help it find some flowers.

Cowy: Why should we help it? It scared me.

Presenter: I'm sure it didn't mean to, Cowy, bees are our friends. They're actually very important and they do so much for us.

Elliot: Because they make honey?

Presenter: Well, yes, Elliot, that's important, but they do a lot more. Have you heard of pollen?

Cowy: Yes, I've heard of that.

Elliot: Me too. It makes me sneeze.

Presenter: Pollen is a special yellow powder that you can find on flowers, plants, and trees. If you like, it's a plant's super powder that helps them grow.

Lingokids characters: Wow.

Presenter: Here's the challenge; trees and plants need to pass their pollen to other trees and plants, but they can't move from one place to another. How can they get pollen from their flowers to another tree's flowers?

Lingokids characters: Bees.

Presenter: That's right. Bees travel from flower to flower looking for nectar to eat and collecting the super powder for trees and plants that is called?

Lingokids characters:: Pollen.

Presenter: That's right. When they land on another plant, that pollen falls onto it.

Cowy: Amazing.

Elliot: They really are busy bees.

Presenter: Yes, bees really are amazing. This process of spreading pollen is called pollination, and the animals who help with pollination are called pollinators.

Lisa: That makes sense.

Elliot: Bees are polli-gons.

Presenter: [laughs] Almost. Yes, Elliot, bees are pollinators. Without them, we would lose so many of our foods like nuts, vegetables, fruits, and other things that come from trees that we depend on.

Lisa: Bees really are our friends.

Elliot: Let's help Mrs. Bee find the flower.

Cowy: Follow us.

Elliot: It's hard to find flowers in the city.

Presenter: Yes, unfortunately, as cities grow and natural green areas are destroyed, bees, along with other animals, lose their homes.

[bird chirping]

Lisa: Yes, Billy, I see it. There's a park over there with lots of beautiful flowers.

Lingokids characters:: Let's go, Mrs. Bee.

Presenter: Well done, everyone. We've helped our friend find the flowers. Thank you for all you do for us, Mrs. Bee, and bye-bye now.

Lingokids characters:: Bye-bye, Mrs. Bee.

[background music]

Presenter: We've all been busy bees today. I hope the next time you hear the [bee buzzes] you will know what to do. Let us know if you are already helping bees. We would love to share your story. You can find our contact details in the show notes. If you are ready for inactive playlearning time, explore our Lingokids app. It offers fun and educational songs and games to help kids ages two and older learn and develop important skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. That's the power of playlearning. See you in our next episode.