PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: What's going on here? JOWO?

MS. SCHLAU: Ummm… I… I think he's on strike.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: On strike? Why? He's got it great.

MS. SCHLAU: No. Ever since we uploaded the film about the flying ant, he wants to become a stunt pilot.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Stunt pilot? No. Out of the question. It's much too dangerous. Besides, the ant didn't fly, it fell.

MS. SCHLAU: JOWO is in uh… strike mode again.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: What is he thinking? A drone on strike? Who's ever heard of that. It's absurd. And we're about to start the lecture explaining how an ant survives falling from a high-rise building. Go, JOWO, show the film!

MS. SCHLAU: You have to be just a tiny bit nicer to him, Professor. Dear JOWO, I understand that you'd like to demonstrate how well you can fly. I am going to assume that this is only a warning strike and that the lecture can still take place. The students shouldn't have to suffer because of your strike…? Thank you, JOWO. Then show the film, please! This is a forest with a few spruce trees. What's unique are the mounds you see right there. These are **ant**hills **(*AMEISE*)**, or more precisely: anthills made by red wood ants. They build these hills themselves. They collect tiny twigs, pieces of wood, or pine needles.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: These hills are where the ants live. When the ants **search (*SUCHEN*)** for building materials for their hills or for nourishment, they also climb up trees. If the trees are big like these ones here, the ants might get more than 30 meters up.

MS. SCHLAU: And if **high-rise buildings (*HOCHHAUS*)** are located near the trees, the ants may **climb (*KLETTERN*)** them as well. But what happens if an ant falls off of a high-rise?

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: It's quite windy up here. At any moment, a misstep could happen and an ant could fall. Would an ant survive that?

MS. SCHLAU: When we humans fall off of high-rises, we don't survive. In order to find out what happens to an ant, Elmar does a few experiments in the film studio. For this, he needs a plate of **sand (*SAND*)**… and on the little blue card there's an ant that's normally displayed in a **museum (*MUSEUM*)**. He lets it fall down again and again. And what happens?

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PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Nothing. All the legs are still attached, and the antennae, too. Now Elmar lets the ant fall farther. He positions himself and shoves the ant from the card. The ant falls **down (*UNTEN*)** slowly and all of its legs are still on. Now Elmar has enough courage to go even higher. He climbs a ladder and lets the ant fall. Specifically, we're curious to know if the ant travels faster the farther it falls. It seems that the ant doesn't fall any faster. And again, nothing happened.

MS. SCHLAU: Does it maybe have something to do with the ant being so light? So we went ahead and did another experiment. Underneath a stone slab – and **above (*OBEN*)** an egg and a feather.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: The feather is light and the **egg (*EI*)** is heavy. Elmar lets both of them fall. Let's watch in slow motion to see how it looks on the stone slab. The egg lands much quicker and breaks. But where is the feather? It apparently falls much, much slower. There, in slow motion you can see better. The feather lands very softly. That is because it was slowed by the **air (*LUFT*)** that surrounds it. Now we felt confident we could use our slow motion camera to film an ant drop with a living ant.

MS. SCHLAU: Look – here is how it lands. And what does it do next? It gets back on its feet and walks away as if nothing happened. So, when an ant falls down somewhere, it's slowed down so much by the air that it doesn't make a difference if it falls two meters, like here in the studio, or much further, like from the high-rise. Our question of what happens when an ant falls from a high-rise has been answered.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: If it actually falls because of the wind or a misstep, it will fall at the same rate of speed as if it had fallen from just two meters up. It can relax and enjoy the flight.

MS. SCHLAU: Because when it lands, it only has to sort out its six legs, and then it's ready to head off to new adventures. So run on ahead, little ant.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Those ants – fascinating! Well, as long as they don't crawl around on you, heeheeheehee. What? What is that?

MS. SCHLAU: Oh, JOWO has ended his strike. I think he's going to show us a stunt flight.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: He's – what?!

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MS. SCHLAU: Uuuh, a flawless loop.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Ahhh…JOWO, that's dangerous. Please be reasonable.

MS. SCHLAU: Flying backwards. Fantastic! Oh, and now that's a death spiral.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Uh, uh… I'm getting dizzy, Ms. Schlau.

MS. SCHLAU: And a devil's spin and now…. Ahhh…whoa! Take cover! Well… and that was a… obviously… a rapid descent.

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