



Pip's Midnight Kitchen Games

When the house goes dark, one tiny mouse turns the kitchen into his own secret playground.

Late at night, the kitchen was dark and quiet. Everyone in the house was asleep. But behind the wall, a little mouse called Pip was wide awake. He was hungry, and he could smell bread, cheese, and something sweet. To Pip, the kitchen at night was the best playground in the whole world.

Pip pushed his nose through a small hole and looked around. The family that lived in the house was kind, but they did not like a mouse in their kitchen. So Pip had to be quick and careful. He waited, listened, and then ran fast across the cold floor.

First, he climbed up to the table. On the table, he found small crumbs of bread and a tiny piece of cheese. He sat down and began to enjoy¹ his little meal. The cheese was soft and full of flavour. Pip was happy, but he was also a naughty mouse, and one small snack was never enough for him.

Next, Pip looked at the big white fridge² in the corner. The door was open just a little. "What a clever³ place to find food," he thought. He had a wonderful idea⁴. He jumped from the table, ran to the fridge, and slipped inside through the open door.

Inside, it was very cold, but there was milk, butter, and more cheese. Pip played his favourite game. He pushed a small grape off the shelf and watched it roll across the floor. Then he knocked over a tiny box of sugar. White sugar fell everywhere, like soft snow on the kitchen tiles.

Suddenly⁵, Pip heard a noise. A light came on in the hall, and footsteps came closer and closer. Pip was scared⁶. His little heart beat very fast. He could not stay in the fridge, because the cold air was too much for him.

Quietly, he jumped out and looked for a place to hide. He ran behind a chair, then under the cupboard, and finally back to his little hole in the wall. He stayed very still and did not make a single sound.

In the morning, the family came into the kitchen. They saw sugar on the floor, a grape near the door, and tiny footprints everywhere. "Oh no, the mouse again!" said the mother, but she was not really angry. She almost laughed. The children thought it was very funny.

Behind the wall, Pip listened and felt proud. For him, it was not a problem at all. It was a brilliant night and a brilliant game. He was tired now, so he closed his eyes and went to sleep.

That night, when the house was dark and quiet again, Pip woke up, smiled, and got ready for his next adventure. The naughty little mouse loved his secret kitchen games, and nothing in the world could stop him. Every night brought a new chance to play, to eat, and to be the cleverest little mouse in the whole house.

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VOCABULARY — KEY WORDS FROM THE STORY

#	WORD	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
1	enjoy <i>verb</i>	to get pleasure from something; to like doing or having something	"I really enjoy a hot cup of tea in the morning."
2	fridge <i>noun</i>	a large machine in the kitchen that keeps food and drinks cold	"Please put the milk back in the fridge so it stays fresh."
3	clever <i>adjective</i>	able to learn and understand things quickly; good at thinking of smart ideas	"My sister is very clever and always finds a good answer fast."
4	idea <i>noun</i>	a thought or plan in your mind about what to do	"I have a good idea for your birthday party."
5	suddenly <i>adverb</i>	very quickly and when you do not expect it	"We were walking home when suddenly it started to rain."
6	scared <i>adjective</i>	feeling afraid because you think something bad may happen	"The little boy was scared of the big dog in the park."

COMPREHENSION — ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1 — MULTIPLE CHOICE

Why did Pip have to be quick and careful in the kitchen?

- A-) Because the floor was too cold for his feet
- B-) Because the family did not want a mouse in their kitchen
- C-) Because he was not hungry that night
- D-) Because the kitchen door was closed

QUESTION 2 — MULTIPLE CHOICE

What happened just before Pip got scared?

- A-) He found a piece of cheese on the table
- B-) He fell asleep behind the wall
- C-) A light came on and he heard footsteps coming closer
- D-) The mother laughed in the morning

QUESTION 3 — SHORT ANSWER

How do we know that the family was not really angry about the mess? Use words from the story.

COMPREHENSION ANSWERS

My score today ___ / 3

Q1 Because the family did not want a mouse in their kitchen ✓ Correct (B)

The text says the family 'was kind, but they did not like a mouse in their kitchen. So Pip had to be quick and careful.' The word 'so' shows us that this is the reason for his careful behaviour.

Q2 A light came on and he heard footsteps coming closer ✓ Correct (C)

The story says, 'Suddenly, Pip heard a noise. A light came on in the hall, and footsteps came closer and closer. Pip was scared.' The noise, the light, and the footsteps all happen right before he feels scared.

Q3 **Answer:** We know the family was not really angry because of how the mother and children acted. The story says the mother 'was not really angry' and 'she almost laughed'. It also says the children 'thought it was very funny'. They saw the sugar and the footprints, but they reacted with humour, not with anger. This shows the family found the little mouse more funny than annoying.

Explanation: A good answer must use clear evidence from the text, such as 'not really angry', 'almost laughed', or 'very funny'. The student should connect this evidence to the idea that the family's feelings were soft and amused, not angry. Simple, correct A2 sentences are enough.

VOCABULARY — TRANSLATION & NOTES

enjoy

After 'enjoy' we use the '-ing' form of a verb, for example 'enjoy eating' or 'enjoy playing', not 'enjoy to eat'.

fridge

'Fridge' is the short, everyday word. The longer, more formal word is 'refrigerator'. We often say 'in the fridge'.

clever

We can say a person is clever, but also a 'clever idea' or a 'clever plan'. In British English, 'clever' is very common.

idea

We usually say 'have an idea' or 'a good/bad idea'. Be careful: 'idea' starts with a vowel sound, so we use 'an idea'.

suddenly

'Suddenly' often comes at the start of a sentence in stories to show a surprise or a quick change.

scared

We say 'scared of' something, for example 'scared of the dark'. 'Scared' describes how a person feels.

YOUR TURN — SENTENCE BUILDING

Mastery comes from practice. Write original sentences using today's target vocabulary.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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