

Success with Stories - Lesson 1

Cats in Love

THE STORY

Hello, this is Lisa, and I want to welcome you to the Success with Stories, Lesson #1. The title of this story is “Cats in Love”.

Now remember, when you are listening to the stories, all you need to do is sit back, relax and listen. Enjoy the story. Listen to the language. Don't worry about it if you don't understand something. You can read along with the transcript and you can listen to it over and over again. Remember, repetition is key. It is how you are going to train your ear to hear all the sounds of the language, of the English language. Relax and enjoy the story.

Toby is my cat. He's 15 years old. That's pretty old for a cat, but he acts like a teenager. He has jet black fur that is soft and silky, and green eyes that shine brightly in the night. He is slim and sleek; he only eats mice and raw meat that I give him in a special silver cat food bowl, suited to the prince that he is.

Toby is also feisty, curious and very independent. He doesn't like to be told what to do. He likes to live life on his own terms. He spends most of the day outside chasing mice, bringing his kill onto the front porch to enjoy eating the poor little mouse slowly and deliberately. I prefer not to watch.

In the evenings, he jumps onto my lap when I am sitting on the couch. He loves when I pet him, purring loudly as he pushes his head into my hand so that I will stroke his head. Toby spends the evening napping lazily on the couch, resting up for his late-night rendezvous with Suzy.

Suzy is Toby's girlfriend. Suzy is only 10 years old; Toby prefers younger felines. She is a gorgeous White Persian with pink eyes who lives next door. Her owner, Frankie, is an old Italian man who spends most of the day outside, gardening and blasting classical music from his huge, expensive speakers in his living room. He is friendly and kind, and he loves Toby as much as I do, and that is why he is so worried.

He is worried about Jazz.

Jazz is the new tomcat on the block. He is a young eight-year-old tabby who spends his time wooing all the mollies in the neighborhood, and it seems he has his eyes set on Suzy.

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He comes around a lot and sits on the white picket fence that surrounds Frankie's house, waiting for Suzy to appear. When she does, he jumps down onto the grass and walks alongside her, purring and rubbing his head up against her neck. She seems to like it, and that has me worried, too.

It crosses my mind to off Jazz, but I feel guilty, and I try to think of a nice way to just get rid of him. I'm not an evil person; I just love Toby and can't stand the thought of him losing his little Suzy to this young whippersnapper. There are plenty of other beauties in the neighborhood, he doesn't have to go after Suzy. Jazz needs to back off and find someone else.

But how I can I make that happen?

Then it comes to me. My neighbor down the street, Tommy, an amateur cat breeder has a reputation as a first-rate matchmaker. Yes, it's true; normally he only works with humans, matching up uptight, overworked businessmen with sensuous, under-appreciated females who want to settle down and start a family. But when I tell him about Toby and Suzy, I am sure he will help me find a match for Jazz; perhaps a young, blue-eyed Siamese or a vivacious Ragdoll.

When I call Tommy and tell him my plan, he is excited, and within 10 minutes he is at my door, enthusiastically waving a cage full of cats in front of my face, grinning from ear to ear.

"We are going to find Jazz a new gal," he says with a wink.

Inside the house, he opens the cage door and out saunter 10 beautiful female cats, meowing and purring. There is one, in particular, that stands out, a lovely little gray-haired, green-eyed beauty, who is obviously very smart and fierce. She dominates all the other cats. She looks like the brains of the group. I think she will make a perfect match for Jazz. Her name is Minnie. She's a young Russian Blue.

"What do we do now? What's the plan?" I ask Tommy, eager to get the show on the road.

He tells me his plan and we agree to meet in front of Frankie's house at midnight. Frankie doesn't know our plan, but I am pretty sure he'd give us his blessing.

At midnight, Tommy and I meet in front of Frankie's house. Tommy holds Minnie as I put a bowl full of fresh, raw meat down on the sidewalk. We put Minnie down and she begins to eat. Pretty soon, along comes Jazz.

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Oooohhhh, our plan is going to work!

Jazz sees Minnie and begins to walk towards her slowly, looking around, cautiously.

All of a sudden, Toby and Suzy appear on top of the white picket fence. They are so cute together! They are sitting next to each other, watching as Jazz and Minnie find each other's eyes.

But wait, what the heck?!

Toby jumps down smack-dab in front of Jazz, cutting him off from meeting his new love, Minnie. Toby rises on all fours, arches his back and gives a loud cry! Meooowww!!

Jazz backs away, confused, frightened, and in no mood to fight. He doesn't even make a sound.

Minnie moves toward Toby, meowing sweetly and purring. She begins to rub up against him. Toby licks her head. They both begin to purr and cuddle.

Jazz quickly jumps up onto the fence, situating himself right next to Suzy. Suzy meows and Jazz meows back. Soon they are licking each other and purring, contentedly.

Tommy and I watch, mouths wide open, dumbfounded.

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VOCABULARY LESSON

Hello! This is Lisa! Welcome to Success with Stories, Lesson #1 - Vocabulary.

The title of this story is “Cats in Love”.

Now remember, for the Vocabulary Lesson, all you need to do is sit back, relax and listen. I am going to be rereading the story, again, and this time, I am going to be going over the vocabulary. I am going to be giving you some meanings of the words.

I will be explaining what the words mean, and I will also be explaining some of the expressions, some of the idiomatic expressions and phrases that are used in this story.

So, this is a way for you to increase your understanding of the story by learning the meanings of these words and these expressions.

The more you get exposed to these words and expressions, the more you will be able to use them in your own spoken and written English. It's a great way to improve your vocabulary and your comprehension. So, let's begin!

NOTE: I do not provide a written transcript of everything that I say in the Vocabulary Lesson. I speak at normal speed most of the time, and sometimes it is quite fast. I want you to listen over and over until you understand what I am saying, without needing to look at an entire transcript. This is the part of the program that really trains your ears for listening comprehension. The story, the vocabulary words, and some meanings are provided, so you can read along and see a lot of the words, but not all of them.

Listen to the way I am *linking* the words together in order to understand what I am saying. This is the natural way of speaking.

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pretty: quite, very, rather

silky: very smooth, like silk

to shine: to reflect light, to glisten

sleek: well-groomed, very neat

suited: to meet the requirements of, to fit

feisty: full of spirit, frisky or spunky

curious: eager to learn more, inquisitive

to live life on your own terms: to live life the way you want, doing your own thing

chasing: running after (to run after)

porch: covered area in front of your house

deliberately: with intention and attention

to purr: to make the sound that cats make when they like something

to stroke: to pet, to touch (to be petted or stroked)

napping: sleeping

to rest up for something: to take a nap or rest in order to be able to do something later

rendezvous: meeting (French origin)

Toby is my cat. He's 15 years old. That's **pretty** old for a cat, but he acts like a teenager. He has jet black fur that is soft and **silky**, and green eyes that **shine** brightly in the night. He is slim and **sleek**; he only eats mice and raw meat that I give him in a special silver cat food bowl, **suited** to the prince that he is.

Toby is also **feisty**, **curious** and very independent. He doesn't like to be told what to do. He likes **to live life on his own terms**. He spends most of the day outside **chasing** mice, bringing his kill onto the front **porch** to enjoy eating the poor little mouse (*mice - plural*) slowly and **deliberately**. I prefer not to watch.

In the evenings, he jumps onto my lap when I am sitting on the couch. He loves when I pet him, **purring** loudly as he pushes his head into my hand so that I will **stroke** his head. Toby spends the evening **napping** lazily on the couch, **resting up for** his late-night **rendezvous** with Suzy.

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feline: cat

gorgeous: beautiful, pretty

blasting: playing very loudly, high volume

speakers: loudspeakers that broadcast the sound

worried: to feel uneasy or concerned about something or someone

tomcat: male cat

on the block: in the neighborhood

tabby: a domestic cat that is usually gray with stripes

wooing: seeking the affections of

molly: a female cat

to have one's eyes set on someone or

something: to want someone or something

to seem to like something or someone: to appear to like something or someone, to look like you like something or someone

Suzy is Toby's girlfriend. Suzy is only 10 years old; Toby prefers younger **felines**. She is a **gorgeous** White Persian with pink eyes who lives next door. Her owner, Frankie, is an old Italian man who spends most of the day outside, gardening and **blasting** classical music from his huge, expensive, **speakers** in his living room. He is friendly and kind, and he loves Toby as much as I do, and that is why he is so **worried**.

He is worried about Jazz.

Jazz is the new **tomcat on the block**. He is a young 8-year-old **tabby** who spends his time **wooing** all the **mollies** in the neighborhood, and it seems **he has his eyes set on** Suzy. He comes around a lot and sits on the white picket fence that surrounds Frankie's house, waiting for Suzy to appear. When she does, he jumps down onto the grass and walks alongside her, purring and rubbing his head up against her neck. She **seems to like it**, and that has me worried, too.

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to off someone: to kill someone
to get rid of someone or something: to throw it away, to make it go away
to not be able to stand the thought of something: to not be able to think about what it will be like if something happens
whippersnapper: someone who is regarded as insignificant and pretentious
to go after someone or something: to try to catch someone or get something
to back off: to retreat or go away

amateur: beginner, novice
breeder: someone who breeds animals
reputation: what people say about someone
first-rate: top-notch, excellent
matchmaker: one who brings together suitable partners for marriage
uptight: nervous, tense, stiff
sensuous: pleasing to the senses
to settle down: to get married
vivacious: lively, full of spirit

It crosses my mind **to off** Jazz, but I feel guilty, and I try to think of a nice way **to just get rid of him**. I'm not an evil person; I just love Toby and **can't stand the thought of** him losing his little Suzy to this young **whippersnapper**. There are plenty of other beauties in the neighborhood, he doesn't have **to go after** Suzy. Jazz needs **to back off** and find someone else.

But how I can I make that happen?

Then it comes to me. My neighbor down the street, Tommy, an **amateur** cat **breeder** has a **reputation** as a **first-rate matchmaker**. Yes, it's true; normally he only works with humans, matching up **uptight**, overworked businessmen with **sensuous**, under-appreciated females who want **to settle down** and start a family. But when I tell him about Toby and Suzy, I am sure he will help me find a match for Jazz; perhaps a young, blue-eyed Siamese or a **vivacious** Ragdoll.

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enthusiastically: with a lot of enthusiasm, energy, excitement

waving: moving something back and forth

grinning from ear to ear: smiling a very big smile, very happy and excited

gal: girl, girlfriend

wink: to close your eye in order to let someone know that you know what's going on, you're on the same page

to saunter: to walk at a leisurely pace

to stand out: to be noticeable, distinctive

fierce: strong, intense

to dominate: to control, to have power over

the brains of: used to describe someone who is the smartest, most intelligent person (or cat in this case) in a group

to get the show on the road: to start something, to get something started, to do it right now

When I call Tommy and tell him my plan, he is excited, and within 10 minutes he is at my door, **enthusiastically waving** a cage full of cats in front of my face, **grinning from ear to ear**.

"We are going to find Jazz a new **gal**," he says with a **wink**.

Inside the house, he opens the cage door and out **saunter** 10 beautiful female cats, meowing and purring. There is one, in particular, that **stands out**, a lovely little gray-haired, green-eyed beauty, who is obviously very smart and **fierce**. She **dominates** all the other cats. She looks like **the brains of** the group. I think she will make a perfect match for Jazz. Her name is Minnie. She's a young Russian Blue.

"What do we do now? What's the plan?" I ask Tommy, eager **to get the show on the road**.

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to give someone your blessing: to be okay with what that person is doing, to be in agreement with someone about something

raw: not cooked

sidewalk: the concrete path where people walk, in front of houses in neighborhoods, also a sidewalk is in front of buildings in cities, it's where people walk

cautiously: carefully, with caution

all of a sudden: used to describe when something happens out of the blue, right then, without knowing ahead of time

what the heck: an exclamation of surprise that something is happening that you didn't expect to happen or you don't understand *what the hell and what the fuck? (WTF)*

He tells me his plan and we agree to meet in front of Frankie's house at midnight. Frankie doesn't know our plan, but I am pretty sure he'd **give us his blessing**.

At midnight, Tommy and I meet in front of Frankie's house. Tommy holds Minnie as I put a bowl full of fresh, **raw** meat down on the **sidewalk**. We put Minnie down and she begins to eat. Pretty soon, along comes Jazz.

Oooohhhh, our plan is going to work!

Jazz sees Minnie and begins to walk towards her, slowly, looking around, **cautiously**.

All of a sudden, Toby and Suzy appear on top of the white picket fence. They are so cute together! They are sitting next to each other, watching as Jazz and Minnie find each other's eyes.

But wait, what the heck?!

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<p>smack-dab: directly, squarely, right in front</p> <p>to arch your back: to curl your back, to make a curve with your back</p>	<p>Toby jumps down smack-dab in front of Jazz, cutting him off from meeting his new love, Minnie. Toby rises on all fours, arches his back and gives a loud cry! Meoooooww!!</p>
<p>frightened: scared</p> <p>in no mood to: to not be in the mood to do something, not wanting to do something</p>	<p>Jazz backs away, confused, frightened, and in no mood to fight. He doesn't even make a sound.</p>
<p>to lick: to move your tongue across or over something</p> <p>to cuddle: to snuggle next to somebody else, for humans it's like hugging</p>	<p>Minnie moves toward Toby, meowing sweetly and purring. She begins to rub up against him. Toby licks her head. They both begin to purr and cuddle.</p>
<p>situating: placing, fixating (to situate)</p> <p>contentedly: happily</p>	<p>Jazz quickly jumps up onto the fence, situating himself right next to Suzy. Suzy meows and Jazz meows back. Soon they are licking each other and purring, contentedly.</p>
<p>dumbfounded: shocked, in shock, astonished</p>	<p>Tommy and I watch, mouths wide open, dumbfounded.</p>

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THE QUESTION AND ANSWER LESSON

Hello, and welcome to the Question and Answer Lesson for Story #1, “Cats in Love”.

Before we get started, I want to remind you how this lesson will work.

In this lesson, I am going to read the story once again, but this time I am going to stop and ask you questions. This is your time to speak. This is the most powerful lesson for speaking in this Success with Stories program.

Your job is to answer the questions, preferably out loud and preferably with a lot of energy.

Some of the questions will only need a “yes” or a “no” for an answer. Some of the other questions will require you to say more words, and a lot of times, it is preferable if you can answer with a complete sentence. This is how you are going to begin to speak English fluently and effortlessly, without having to think about grammar, without having to think about vocabulary words. You will have more much more confidence the more you practice this. This is a way for your English to become automatic.

We want you to be able to speak English automatically, just like you speak your own native language.

Okay, so let's get started.

I want you to be excited. I want you to be awake. If you're a little bit tired right now, jump up and down, get your blood flowing, and let's do this.

Remember, I'm going to read the story and I'm going to stop and ask you questions, and your job is to answer those questions.

I will also make a pause so that you have time to answer those questions, and then I will give you the answers. I will provide a model for how you could answer that question. Sometimes I might provide only one example. And, sometimes I might provide even more.

Language is alive. There are lots of ways to answer a question.

Okay, let's do this.

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Toby is my cat. He's 15 years old.

How old is Toby?

He's 15 (fifteen) years old. Toby is 15 years old.

Is Toby 25 years old?

No, Toby is not 25 (twenty-five) years old. He is 15 years old.

That's pretty old for a cat, but he acts like a teenager.

Is 15 pretty old for a cat?

Yes, it is, 15 years old is pretty old for a cat.

Does Toby act like a baby?

No. No, Toby does not act like a baby.

What does he act like?

He acts like a teenager. Toby acts like a teenager.

He has jet black fur that is soft and silky, and green eyes that shine brightly in the night. He is slim and sleek; he only eats mice and raw meat that I give him in a special silver cat food bowl, suited to the prince that he is.

What color fur does Toby have?

Black. Toby has black fur.

Is his fur soft and silky.

Yes. Yes, it is. Toby's fur is soft and silky.

Is Toby fat? Is he a fat cat?

No, Toby is not a fat cat. He is not fat. He is slim. Toby is slim and sleek.

What does Toby eat?

Toby eats mice and raw meat.

Does Toby eat cooked meat?

No, Toby does not eat cooked meat, he eats raw meat. Toby eats raw meat.

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Toby is also feisty, curious and very independent. He doesn't like to be told what to do.

Is Toby a curious cat?

Yes, Toby is a curious cat. Toby is very curious.

Does Toby like to be told what to do?

No, he doesn't. Toby doesn't like to be told what to do. He likes to do his own thing. He likes to be very independent.

He likes to live life on his own terms.

Does he like to do what other people tell him to do or want him to do?

No way. Toby likes to do things on his own terms. He likes to do things his own way. He is independent.

He spends most of the day outside chasing mice, bringing his kill onto the front porch to enjoy eating the poor little mouse slowly and deliberately. I prefer not to watch.

Where does Toby spend most of the day?

Outside. Toby spends most of the day outside.

What does he do outside?

He chases mice. He likes to chase mice outside.

Where does he bring the mice?

He brings the mice to the front porch.

How does Toby eat the mice?

Yeah, he eats them slowly and deliberately.

Does his owner like to watch him eating the dead mice?

No, she doesn't like it at all. She prefers not to watch.

In the evenings, he jumps onto my lap when I am sitting on the couch. He loves when I pet him, purring loudly as he pushes his head into my hand so that I will stroke his head.

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What does Toby like?

Toby likes to be petted. He likes when she pets his head.

Does Toby like to be kicked around the house?

No. No way. He likes to be petted.

Does he bite his owner?

No, Toby doesn't bite his owner.

Is Toby a mean cat?

No, Toby's not a mean cat. He's a nice cat. (*Toby is not... He is...*)

Toby spends the evening napping lazily on the couch, resting up for his late-night rendezvous with Suzy.

Where does Toby nap?

On the couch. Toby naps on the couch.

Why does he nap on the couch in the evening?

To rest up for his late-night rendezvous with Suzy. He naps on the couch in the evening to rest up for his late-night rendezvous with Suzy.

Does Toby meet with Suzy early in the morning?

No, he does not meet with Suzy early in the morning.

Does Toby meet with Suzy late at night?

Yes! Toby meets with Suzy late at night. They meet together late at night. They have a rendezvous late at night.

Suzy is Toby's girlfriend. Suzy is only 10 years old; Toby prefers younger felines.

Who is Suzy?

Suzy is Toby's girlfriend.

How old is Suzy?

Ten, she is 10 years old. Suzy is 10 years old.

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Is Suzy younger than Toby or older than Toby?

Younger. Suzy is younger than Toby.

Does Toby prefer younger felines?

Yes, he does. Toby prefers younger felines.

She is a gorgeous White Persian with pink eyes who lives next door.

Where does Suzy live?

Next door. Suzy lives next door to Toby.

What color eyes does Suzy have?

Pink. Suzy has pink eyes. She has pink eyes.

Her owner, Frankie, is an old Italian man who spends most of the day outside, gardening and blasting classical music from his huge, expensive speakers in his living room.

Who is Frankie?

Frankie is Suzy's owner.

Is Frankie Toby's grandpa?

No, Frankie is not Toby's grandpa.

Is Frankie Suzy's husband?

No, Frankie is not Suzy's husband. Frankie is her owner. Frankie is Suzy's owner.

Where is Frankie from?

Italy. Frankie is from Italy.

Is he an African?

No, he is not from Africa. He is not African. He is Italian.

Is Frankie from Sweden?

No, he's not from Sweden. He's from Italy.

What kind of music does Frankie like?

Classical music. Frankie likes classical music.

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Does Frankie like hip hop music.
No. Nope, he doesn't like hip hop music.

Does Frankie like rock and roll music?
No.

Does Frankie like jazz music?
No. Frankie does not like jazz music. He likes classical music.

He is friendly and kind and he loves Toby as much as I do, and that is why he is so worried.

Does Frankie love Toby?
Yes. Frankie does love Toby. Frankie loves Toby.

Is Frankie excited for Toby?
No, Frankie is not excited for Toby.

Is Frankie worried about Toby?
Yes. Yes, he is worried about Toby.

Why is he worried?
Well, if you remember the story, he is worried about Jazz. Frankie is worried about Jazz.

Jazz is the new tomcat on the block.

Who is Jazz?
Jazz is the new tomcat on the block.

He is a young eight-year-old tabby who spends his time wooing all the mollies in the neighborhood, and it seems he has his eyes set on Suzy.

Does Jazz like Suzy?
Yes, he does. Jazz likes Suzy. He has his eyes set on her.

He comes around a lot and sits on the white picket fence that surrounds Frankie's house, waiting for Suzy to appear.

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Where does Jazz sit?

On the white picket fence. He sits on the white picket fence.

Does he sit on the grass?

No, he does not sit on the grass.

Does he sit on top of the car?

No, he does not sit on the top of the car.

Is the fence black?

No, the fence is not black. The fence is white.

Is he waiting for Toby? Is Jazz waiting for Toby?

No, he is not waiting for Toby. He is waiting for Suzy. He is waiting for Suzy to appear.

When she does, he jumps down onto the grass and walks alongside her, purring and rubbing his head up against her neck. She seems to like it, and that has me worried, too.

Does Suzy seem to like Jazz?

Yes, she does. Yes, she seems to like Jazz.

What does Jazz do to Suzy?

He rubs his head up against her neck.

It crosses my mind to off Jazz, but I feel guilty, and I try to think of a nice way to just get rid of him.

Does she want to kill Jazz?

Yes, she wants to off Jazz. She wants to kill him.

Does she feel happy about that?

No, she does not feel happy about that. She feels guilty.

Is she really going to kill Jazz?

No, she is not really going to kill Jazz. She wants to get rid of him.

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I'm not an evil person; I just love Toby and can't stand the thought of him losing his little Suzy to this young whippersnapper.

Is she an evil person?

No, she is not an evil person.

Is she a crazy person?

Maybe. Maybe she's a little crazy. What do you think? Perhaps.

What is she afraid of?

She is afraid that Jazz will steal Suzy from Toby. She is afraid that Toby will lose Suzy to Jazz.

There are plenty of other beauties in the neighborhood, he doesn't have to go after Suzy.

Is Jazz going after Suzy?

Yes, it appears that he is. It looks like he is going after Suzy.

Jazz needs to back off and find someone else.

Does Jazz need to back off and find someone else?

Maybe. Maybe he should back off and find someone else.

But how I can I make that happen?

Then it comes to me. My neighbor down the street, Tommy, an amateur cat breeder has a reputation as a first-rate matchmaker.

Who is Tommy?

A neighbor. Tommy is a neighbor. He lives down the street.

Does Tommy breed snakes?

No, Tommy does not breed snakes.

Does he breed dogs?

No, he doesn't breed dogs either.

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Does he breed horses?

No, Tommy does not breed horses.

What does Tommy breed?

Cats. Tommy breeds cats.

Is Tommy a matchmaker?

Yes. Yes, he is. Tommy is a matchmaker.

Is he a good matchmaker?

Yes, he is a good matchmaker. He is a first-rate matchmaker.

Yes, it's true; normally he only works with humans, matching up uptight, overworked businessmen with sensuous, under-appreciated females who want to settle down and start a family.

Does he usually work with humans?

Yes, it's true, he usually work with humans.

Do the women like to settle down?

Yes, the women want to settle down.

But when I tell him about Toby and Suzy, I am sure he will help me find a match for Jazz; perhaps a young, blue-eyed Siamese or a vivacious Ragdoll.

Does she think that Tommy will help her find Jazz a new match?

Yes. She thinks that Tommy will help her find Jazz a new match.

When I call Tommy and tell him my plan, he is excited, and within 10 minutes he is at my door, enthusiastically waving a cage full of cats in front of my face, grinning from ear to ear.

Does Tommy like the plan?

Yes. Yes, he does. Tommy likes her plan. He likes the plan.

Did it take Tommy an hour to get to her house?

No, it did not take Tommy an hour to get to her house.

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How long did it take Tommy to get to her house?

Ten minutes. It took him 10 minutes to get to her house.

Did he bring a cage full of birds?

No. No, he didn't. He did not bring a cage full of birds.

Did he bring a cage full of dogs?

No, he didn't. He did not bring a cage full of dogs. He brought a cage full of cats.

“We are going to find Jazz a new gal,” he says with a wink.

Inside the house he opens the cage door and out sauntered 10 beautiful female cats meowing and purring.

Do the cats run out of the cage?

No, they do not run out of the cage.

What do they do?

They saunter. They saunter out of the cage.

There is one, in particular, that stands out, a lovely little gray-haired, green-eyed beauty who is obviously very smart and fierce.

Which cat stands out?

The little gray-haired, green-eyed beauty.

Is she a stupid-looking cat?

No, she is not a stupid-looking cat.

Is she a shy-looking cat?

No, she does not look shy. She is not a shy-looking cat.

Is she a fierce-looking cat?

Yes. Yes, she is a fierce-looking cat. She looks fierce.

She dominates all the other cats. She looks like the brains of the group. I think she will make a perfect match for Jazz. Her name is Minnie. She is a young Russian Blue.

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Does she dominate all the other cats?

Yes. Yes, she does. She dominates all the other cats.

Is she afraid of the other cats?

No, she is not afraid of the other cats.

Will she make a perfect match for Jazz?

Maybe. Maybe she will make a perfect match for Jazz.

Is her name Tammy?

No, her name is not Tammy.

Is her name Elizabeth?

No, her name is not Elizabeth.

Is her name Sophia?

No. Her name is Minnie. Her name is not Sophia. It is Minnie.

“What do we do now? What’s the plan?,” I asked Tommy, eager to get the show on the road.

Is she eager to get the show on the road?

Yes. Yes, she is. She is eager to get the show on the road. She wants to get started.

He tells me his plan and we agree to meet in front of Frankie’s house at midnight. Frankie doesn’t know our plan, but I am pretty sure he would give us his blessing.

Does Frankie know what they are planning?

No. No, he doesn’t. Frankie doesn’t know what they are planning.

He doesn’t know their plan.

Are they going to meet behind Frankie’s house?

No, they are not going to meet behind Frankie’s house.

Are they going to meet in Frankie’s room?

No, they are not going to meet in Frankie’s room. They are going to meet in front of Frankie’s house.

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Cats in Love

Are they going to meet at 5:00 a.m. in the morning?

No, they are not going to meet at 5:00 a.m. in the morning.

When are they going to meet?

At midnight. They are going to meet at midnight.

At midnight, Tommy and I meet in front of Frankie's house. Tommy holds Minnie as I put a bowlful of fresh, raw meat down on the sidewalk.

Where does she put the bowl?

On the sidewalk. She puts the bowl down on the sidewalk.

Is the bowl full of noodles?

No, the bowl is not full of noodles.

Is the bowl full of ice cream?

No, the bowl is not full of ice cream.

What is in the bowl?

Raw meat. The bowl is full of raw meat.

We put Minnie down and she begins to eat. Pretty soon, along comes Jazz.

Does Minnie begin to dance?

No.

Does Minnie begin to play the guitar?

No.

What does Minnie do?

She begins to eat. She eats. She eats the fresh raw meat.

Oooohhhh, our plan is going to work! Jazz sees Minnie and begins to walk towards her slowly, looking around, cautiously.

Does Jazz see Minnie?

Yes. Yes, he does. Jazz sees Minnie.

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Cats in Love

Does he turn around and run away from her?

No, he does not run away from her.

What does Jazz do?

He walks towards her. He walks towards Minnie.

All of a sudden, Toby and Suzy appear on top of the white picket fence.

Where are Toby and Suzy?

On top of the white picket fence. They are on top of the white picket fence.

They are so cute together!

Are they ugly together?

No, they are not ugly together. They are cute together.

They are sitting next to each other, watching as Jazz and Minnie find each other's eyes.

But wait, what the heck?!

**Toby jumps down smack-dab in front of Jazz, cutting him off from meeting his new love, Minnie. Toby rises on all fours, arches his back and gives a loud cry!
Meooowww!!**

Does Toby jump on top of Jazz?

No. No, he doesn't. Toby does not jump on top of Jazz.

Does Toby jump on top of Minnie?

No, No, Toby does not jump on top of Minnie.

Where does Toby jump?

In front of Jazz. He jumps in front of Jazz. Toby jumps in front of Jazz.

Jazz backs away confused, frightened and in no mood to fight. He doesn't even make a sound.

Is Jazz frightened?

Yes, Jazz is frightened.

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Does he make a loud noise?

No, he does not make a loud noise.

Is he ready to fight?

No, he is not ready to fight. He is in no mood to fight.

Minnie moves toward Toby, meowing sweetly and purring. She begins to rub up against him. Toby licks her head. They both begin to purr and cuddle.

Do Toby and Minnie cuddle?

Yes. Yes, they do. They cuddle.

Did Minnie scream at Toby?

No, Minnie did not scream at Toby.

Did she meow sweetly and purr?

Yes. Yes, she did. Minnie meowed sweetly and purred.

Jazz quickly jumps up onto the fence situating himself right next to Suzy. Suzy meows and Jazz meows back. Soon they are licking each other and purring contentedly.

Did Jazz run away?

No, he did not. Jazz did not run away.

Who jumped up onto the fence?

Jazz. Jazz did. Jazz jumped up onto the fence.

What did Suzy do?

Meowed. She meowed. Suzy meowed.

Were Suzy and Jazz happy?

Yes, they were happy. Suzy and Jazz were happy.

Tom and I watch, mouths wide opened, dumbfounded.

Were they surprised?

Yes, they were surprised.

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Were they angry?

No. No, they were not angry.

Were they shocked?

Yes. Yes, they were. They were shocked. They were dumbfounded.

Okay, that's the end of the Question and Answer Lesson for Story #1.

I want to remind you that you can listen to this lesson over and over again. The goal for you is to be able to quickly and accurately answer all the questions that I asked throughout the story. If you still do not understand some words or phrases, please, please go back and listen again as much as you can.

Remember, repetition is the key and this is deep learning.

I want to help you become fluent in English, and part of being fluent means that you understand what you are hearing, that you understand what you are reading, and that you can reproduce, correctly, all of the grammatical structures, and you can use the vocabulary in a very automatic way, without having to think, without having to put a lot of effort into your speech.

We want it to just flow out of your mouth, just like it does in your own language.

The easier you can answer these questions, the more fluent you are becoming. So, if at first, it is difficult for you to understand, and you do not understand the questions or you do not know the answers, just keep repeating it over and over until you can answer all the questions excellently, with excellent English, with great sentences, with good pronunciation, and with ease and confidence.

Okay, now you can go and listen to the Point of View Story for Lesson #1. The Point of View Story is the same story, but from a different perspective. In this way, you will be introduced to new grammatical structures; and, the more you listen and read, the more you will automatically begin to understand and use these words and these structures.

Okay, good job!

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Cats in Love

THE POINT OF VIEW STORY

Hello and welcome to Success with Stories, Lesson #1. This is the Point of View Story for “Cats in Love”.

Two years ago, my girlfriend Suzy and I were totally in love. We spent lots of time walking around the neighborhood together and we met every night for a midnight stroll. We had a lot of fun together and enjoyed each other’s company very much.

My owner, a nice young woman named Amy took really good care of me. She loved me so much. She always gave me delicious raw meat and let me bring the mice I killed onto the porch, where I took my time eating my dinner. She didn’t mind at all.

Suzy’s owner was a cool Italian guy who loved classical music. He probably thought that his neighbors did too, because he blasted the music through a big stack of speakers in his living room. His name was Frankie, and he took good care of Suzy, too.

One day, I saw a new tomcat in the area. I met him once, late at night, as I was on my way to meet Suzy for our midnight stroll. He seemed like a nice enough fellow. He said his name was Jazz. I didn’t pay much attention to him though, because he was busy doing his own thing.

At one point, Suzy met him and it seemed that they liked each other, but I wasn’t worried about it. I wasn’t a possessive type of cat, so I didn’t care if Suzy talked with other guys.

Then one night, Suzy and I were sitting on Frankie’s white picket fence, like we usually did during those days, and all of a sudden I spotted this beautiful young Russian Blue. It was love at first sight.

It looked like my owner, Amy, was taking care of this new beauty because she was giving her some food on the sidewalk. Tommy, another neighbor was there, too, but I didn’t know why.

Then I saw Jazz walking up the sidewalk. I thought maybe he too would fall in love with this beautiful feline, so I jumped in front of her and scared him off. She liked that and came over to me and started to rub up against me and purr, contentedly.

I didn’t really notice, but I guess at the same time Suzy jumped down and met up with Jazz. Apparently, it was love at first sight for them as well. What luck!

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Anyway, from that night on, Minnie and I became a couple, and Jazz and Suzy decided to partner up. We went on a few double dates, but mostly I still enjoy my late-night walks with just Minnie.

Suzy and I are still friends.

I think that Amy was a bit freaked out at the sudden switch, but I think she has gotten used to it by now, and has accepted that Minnie and I are in love.

As for Frankie, he started to like Jazz once he realized that he and Suzy were happy together as well.

Looking back now, it all worked out for the best.