



English Fluency Now - Success with Stories

Relax, Listen, Answer and Succeed!

SAMPLE EXCERPT FROM LESSON SET #1 OF SUCCESS WITH STORIES

Hi there! My name is Lisa Biskup. I am an English teacher with over 20 years of experience working with children and adults from around the world.

Many of you are interested in purchasing the **Success with Stories** audio program, in order to improve your listening comprehension skills and your English speaking skills.

Some of you have asked for a sample of the program, so that you can understand what you would be committing to, if you were to purchase this program and start using it to become a powerful speaker of English, which is pretty much everybody's goal these days.

It certainly is a great goal and I think this is an excellent idea!

Therefore, I have created this sample audio lesson to give you the feel for the program.

In the **Success with Stories, Volume 1** program there are 20 Lesson Sets. Each Lesson Set has four audio lessons. The entire Lesson Set can be anywhere from 40 minutes to 90 minutes in total time.

You can repeat each Lesson within each Lesson Set as often as needed until you achieve *mastery*. The program is not designed to be listened to in one week. The idea is to go deep with your learning and really *focus* on one Lesson Set at a time, which means you could be working on one Lesson Set for one week or more. Everybody will be going at their own pace. This is self-directed learning.

Each Lesson Set begins with an original Story. The story is full of great vocabulary and while it is a bit silly at times, that is what helps make it interesting and memorable.

Written transcripts are provided, so that if necessary in the beginning, you can read along.

Here's an excerpt from Story #1, titled "Cats in Love".



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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.

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Okay, that's just a short excerpt from the story, but it gives you an idea of the language and the pace. Next up is an excerpt from the Vocabulary Lesson for the same story “Cats in Love”.



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VOCABULARY LESSON

Success with Stories - Lesson 1

Cats in Love

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!



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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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Okay, so during the Vocabulary Lesson, you can see that I am not necessarily speaking with a super slow pace. I want to help you train your ear to hear normal speech.

Next is a sample of the Question and Answer Lesson for the story “Cats in Love”.

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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.



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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.

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.



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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.

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.



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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.

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.



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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.

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That's all for the excerpt from the Question and Answer Lesson. Even though the questions may seem simple, the goal is not complexity and difficulty, but rather ease and flow. The purpose of the Question and Answer Lesson is to train you to speak automatically without thinking. As you progress through the program, the stories do become more difficult and the questions and answers become longer and more complicated, so that you can expand your ability to express more complex thoughts and ideas.

Next is the Point of View Story which is the final part of Lesson Set #1 for the story "Cats in Love". The purpose of the Point of View story is to give you a familiar context and create a new way of talking about it, from a different perspective. What this does for you is it provides you with additional grammatical structures and vocabulary that you will be able to learn or more precisely acquire, in a natural way, without having to study flash cards. Just listen to the story over and over, look up words you don't understand or use context clues to help you figure out the meanings of the words. You will pick up the grammar without even analyzing it.



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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.

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Well, there you go! That’s a sample of the program **Success with Stories, Volume 1**. As you can see, there is a lot of high quality material here which, if you master, will ensure that you obtain a rather high level of ease and fluency with English.

Learning a language is a life-long process, so it won’t be the only thing or the last thing that you use to improve your English, but it will certainly be a key component in helping you improve.

Of course, this program offers you a self-paced, self-directed learning approach, which means you definitely need to put in the time and effort in order to get the most out of the materials. To purchase this program, just go to www.englishfluencynow.com/success-with-stories - Thanks!