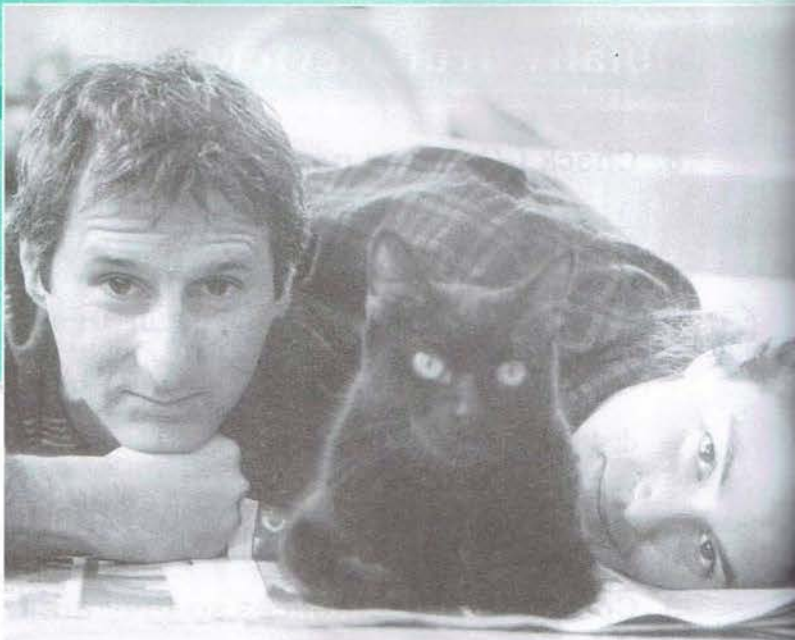


## Cat and Couple Are Homeless



### 1. Read the story

Look at the pictures on these pages.  
What is the story about? Now read it.

**GERMANY** <sup>1</sup>Robbie was always a good **pet**—sweet and playful. But the lovable little cat recently destroyed the home of a German couple. How did this **disaster** happen?

<sup>2</sup>One evening, Robbie was playing in the upstairs bathtub\*. **By accident**, he turned on the **faucet**. <sup>3</sup>Elsie and Walter Kochentopf were cooking dinner in the kitchen when they noticed something strange. Water was coming down through the **ceiling**. <sup>4</sup>Then they saw a river of water running down the stairs all the way into the **basement**. <sup>5</sup>The couple ran downstairs to try to save their things—boxes of books, papers, and clothes. There was water everywhere, so they

began to empty the basement. <sup>6</sup>**Meanwhile**, their dinner was still cooking on the **stove** in the kitchen. They had completely forgotten about it! <sup>7</sup>It started to burn, and the **flames** jumped quickly around the kitchen. The whole room and a nearby hallway were completely destroyed.

<sup>8</sup>Fortunately, no one was **injured**. The Kochentopfs are now homeless, waiting until they can **repair** all the fire and water damage. And Robbie? He has been **forgiven** and cannot wait to get back home.

\* bathtub: the thing you take a bath in

### NEW WORDS

pet <i>n</i>	by accident <i>adv</i>	ceiling <i>n</i>	meanwhile <i>adv</i>	flame <i>n</i>	repair <i>v</i>
disaster <i>n</i>	faucet <i>n</i>	basement <i>n</i>	stove <i>n</i>	injure <i>v</i>	forgive <i>v</i>

>> See Glossary on page 94. >>

### 2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an **X**.

Not at All						A Lot
1	2	3	4	5		

### 3. Check your comprehension

Put the sentences in the correct order. Number them 1–7.

- a. \_\_\_ Flames jumped quickly around the kitchen.
- b. \_\_\_ Their cat turned on a bathtub faucet upstairs.
- c. \_\_\_ Their dinner began to burn.
- d. \_\_\_ Water started running down the stairs and into the basement.
- e. \_\_\_ The Kochentopfs were cooking dinner in the kitchen.
- f. \_\_\_ The couple ran down to save their boxes of books and clothes.
- g. \_\_\_ The whole kitchen was destroyed.

### 4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

- a. The Kochentopfs' p\_\_\_ destroyed their home by acc\_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Water from the upstairs fa\_\_\_\_\_ ran all the way down to the \_\_\_\_\_ment.
- c. Fl\_\_\_\_\_ from the st\_\_\_\_\_ burned down the kitchen.
- d. The Kochentopfs have \_\_\_\_\_given the cat and will re\_\_\_\_\_ the house.

### 5. Listen to the story track 26

Now listen to the story two or three times. Look at the pictures below as you listen.



### 6. Retell the story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Retell the story using the New Words.

## 7. Answer the questions

### About the story...

- How did the disaster begin?
- When did the couple realize that something strange was happening?
- Why did the couple forget that dinner was on the stove?
- Does this story have a happy or a sad ending? Why?

### About you...

- Do you have a pet or want a pet? What kind?
- What have you damaged or destroyed by accident?
- Has there ever been a disaster in your home? What happened?
- What can you do to stay safe in your home?

## 8. Learn word partnerships

Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

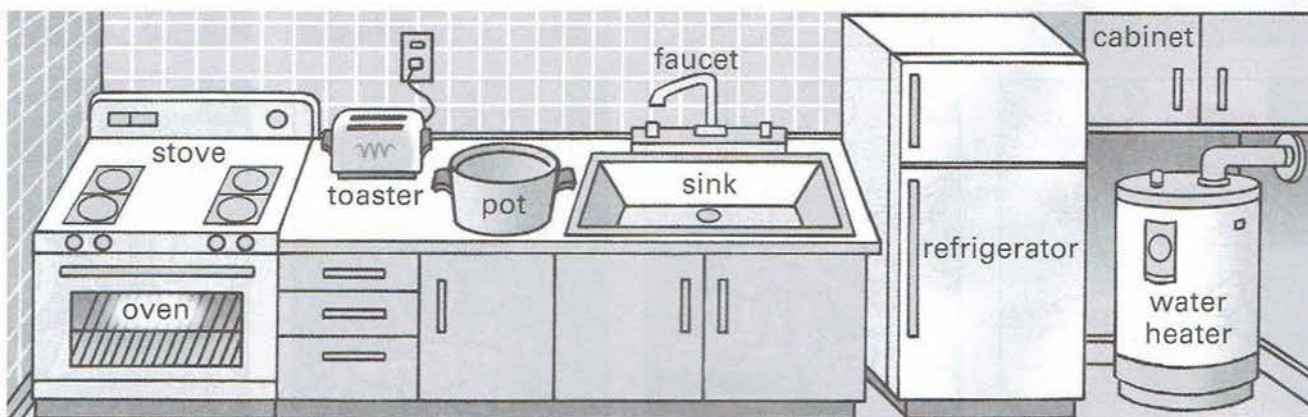
REPAIR		
repair	the damage a broken bike an old computer damaged walls shoes	<b>The Kochentopfs will repair the damage.</b> <i>I have to repair my broken bike.</i> <i>She's not going to repair her old computer.</i> <i>We repaired our damaged walls.</i> <i>Can you repair these shoes?</i>

- I have to repair \_\_\_\_\_.
- I'm not going to repair my broken \_\_\_\_\_.
- My family recently repaired our damaged \_\_\_\_\_.

## 9. Learn word groups

Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use words from the picture.

### A KITCHEN



- In my kitchen, the stove is next to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- I'd like a new \_\_\_\_\_ in my kitchen.
- I use the \_\_\_\_\_ every day, but not the \_\_\_\_\_.

## 10. Take a dictation track 27

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 87.

## 11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

disaster    meanwhile    ceiling    flames  
repair the damage    injured    water heater

# WHAT ARE THE CHANCES?

GREAT YARMOUTH, ENGLAND    Daphne Jones needs a new bathroom. Her old one exploded. The walls and the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ were destroyed. How did this (2) \_\_\_\_\_ happen? It's a strange story.

One morning, Jones put dirty clothes into the washing machine in her bathroom and turned it on. Then she left for work. There were scissors and a can of spray paint\* sitting on the machine. When the machine began to shake a little, it threw the can of paint on the floor. The machine shook a



little more and the scissors flew off. They landed right in the can of paint. Fumes\*\* started coming out of the can.

(3) \_\_\_\_\_, a nearby water heater turned on. The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ from the water heater mixed\*\*\* with the fumes from the paint can. The (5) \_\_\_\_\_ exploded violently, destroying the whole bathroom and really scaring the neighbors.

Fortunately, no one was (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in the accident. Jones plans to (7) \_\_\_\_\_. "The chances that this could happen are one in a million," said the fire chief.



\* spray paint: a liquid in a can that you can use to change the color of your walls or your furniture

\*\* fumes: smoke or air that smells bad

\*\*\* mixed: joined with

## Talk about the stories

Imagine that you and a partner are Elsie Kochentopf and Daphne Jones. You are meeting for the first time. Tell each other about the disasters in your homes.