

80-Year-Old Woman Fights Rat



1. Read the story

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

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM ¹What is the most frightening experience you have ever had? An 80-year-old shopper in Brussels got the **shock** of her life recently as she was shopping at a large supermarket in her **neighborhood**.

²The supermarket was having an annoying problem with a large **rat**. For the last month the workers had chased the rat through the store, trying their best to catch it. ³They put out **poison**. They also put cheese* in **traps**. But neither the poison nor the traps worked. The clever rat simply ate the cheese and **kept on** avoiding the workers.

⁴Then one day the **unsuspecting** woman came into the supermarket. ⁵As she picked up a package of cheese, she felt a **sharp** pain in her right hand. ⁶She looked down, **horrified** to see a **nasty** rat. “It was as big as my hand and hanging on my finger,” the woman told a local newspaper. The rat was trying to steal her cheese. ⁷She bravely pulled the rat off with her left hand and started banging it on the floor. ⁸“The animal was on the floor, knocked completely **unconscious**,” said the proud woman later.

* cheese: yellow or white food made from milk

NEW WORDS

shock *n*

neighborhood *n*

rat *n*

poison *n*

trap *n*

keep on *v*

unsuspecting *adj*

sharp *adj*

horrified *adj*

nasty *adj*

unconscious *adj*

>> See Glossary on page 96. >>

2. Rate the story

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



3. Check your comprehension

Match the first and second parts of the sentences.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| a. A supermarket had a problem with ____ | 1. steal it. |
| b. The workers put out traps, but ____ | 2. unconscious. |
| c. The clever animal avoided ____ | 3. a large rat. |
| d. An unsuspecting shopper picked up ____ | 4. a package of cheese. |
| e. The rat tried to ____ | 5. the traps and the workers. |
| f. The horrified woman knocked the rat ____ | 6. they didn't work. |

4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

- The supermarket workers tried to catch the ___ with traps and p_____, but nothing worked.
- The nas__ rat _____ on avoiding the traps.
- When an unsus_____ shopper picked up some cheese, she felt a sh___ pain in her hand.
- She was ho_____ to see a rat, but she bravely knocked it uncon_____.

5. Listen to the story track 36

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 supermarket workers try to catch the rat?
- What did the woman feel when she picked up the package of cheese?
- What did she see when she looked down?
- Why did the woman feel proud of herself?

About you...

- What was your most frightening experience?
- Do you have an annoying problem? How can you solve it?
- Is there a supermarket in your neighborhood? What do you buy there?
- Do you think that poison or traps should be used when people have a problem with a small animal like a mouse or a rat? Why or why not?

8. Learn word partnerships

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

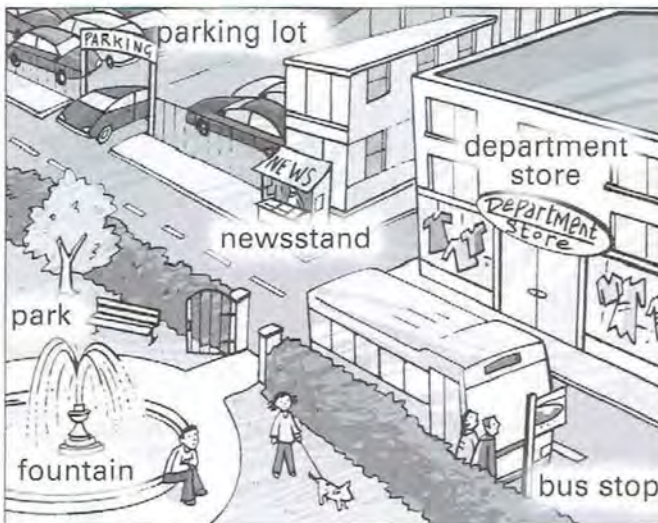
SHOCK		
get/have	a terrible an awful a nasty	shock
<p><i>She got a terrible shock when she saw the rat.</i> <i>I had an awful shock when I heard the news.</i> <i>He got a nasty shock at work.</i></p>		
give someone a shock		<p><i>That dog gave me a terrible shock when it bit me.</i> <i>I gave my mother a shock when I cut my hair.</i></p>

- I _____ a _____ shock recently when _____.
- I gave _____ an awful shock when I _____.

9. Learn word groups

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

A NEIGHBORHOOD



- In my neighborhood, there is no _____.
- In my neighborhood, there is a _____ and a _____.
- My favorite place in my neighborhood is the _____.
- My neighborhood needs a _____.

10. Take a dictation track 37

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.

kept on horrified trap got an awful shock
neighborhood unsuspecting

SLEEPWALKER FIGHTS ALLIGATORS

PALM HARBOR, FLA., USA James Currens, 77, often walks in his sleep. One recent night he

(1) _____. Still sleeping, Currens got out of bed, picked up his cane, and walked out of his house. A few minutes later, the (2) _____ man fell into a small lake in his (3) _____.

Currens woke up in several feet of water. His legs were in mud, and all around him were alligators! The animals quickly made a circle around Currens and showed their teeth. Currens was (4) _____! He was in a dangerous (5) _____. He (6) _____ screaming and hit the hungry animals with his cane to



keep them away.

Neighbors finally heard the man's screams and called the police. When they arrived, the police turned on some bright lights, which scared the alligators. They swam away and Currens was free! It was a lucky night for him.



Talk about the stories

Imagine that you and a partner are the 80-year-old woman and James Currens. You are meeting for the first time. Tell each other about your experiences with animals.