



34-The Cruise

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Dan and Rat went on a cruise on a new ship. Sue, a member of the crew, showed them to their cabin.

“This will be your residence for the next week,” said Sue.

“Thank you,” said Dan.

“Uh, servant lady,” said Rat. “I’ll have some juice please. Some really juicy fruit juice.”

“I am a member of the crew,” said Sue. “I am not your servant. I can see you will be a nuisance on this cruise. I can only hope that your presence on this cruise will not upset the safety of the ship.” Then Sue went away.

“Wow. What's with her?” asked Rat.

“Rat, use some intelligence,” said Dan. “Don't argue with the crew, please. Show respect. Just stick to me like glue and you will stay out of trouble.”

“Dan, I value my independence too much to stick to you like glue,” said Rat. “I MUST go explore the ship.”

“Oh, please Rat,” said Dan. “It's just for a few days. Please, no trouble!”

“Okay,” said Rat.

“Ha!” said Dan.

That night all was well. Dan put on his new blue suit, and he and Rat ate dinner on the deck of the new ship.

Later that night after they went to bed, Dan woke up and turned on the light. Rat was not in his bed! Rat was missing! True to his word, Rat had snuck out to explore the ship, and on his way out to explore, Rat had stepped in some wet paint.

“Rat's absence is a sure sign that trouble is on the way,” said Dan.

Rat explored the ship until he found the bridge. The bridge is where the captain steers the ship. Rat saw that the bridge was empty and the ship was being steered by the automatic-pilot. Rat had confidence that he

could steer the cruise ship better than the automatic-pilot. So Rat turned off the automatic-pilot and grabbed the wheel.

“I am Captain Rat The Cat!” Rat declared. “I explore the high seas with my brave crew!”

Rat soon grew tired and left the bridge to go back to bed, but he forgot to turn the automatic-pilot back on.

The next morning the crew and all the people on the cruise ship woke up when there was a big thud and the ship stopped. Dan sat up in bed, and Rat did too.

“What was that?” asked Rat. “I think it gave me a bruise!”

“I don't know,” said Dan, “but I suspect that it is due to you, whatever it is.”

“Not me! Never!” said Rat, pleading his

innocence. “What could a little cat do to stop a big, new, cruise ship?”

“Let's go find out,” said Dan. So Dan and Rat got dressed and went up to the bridge. The Captain and Sue were on the bridge trying to see what had happened to the ship.

“What happened?” Dan asked the Captain.

“We ran aground on this big rock,” answered Captain Pam. “Now we cannot continue our cruise. And we don't know why we hit the rock. The automatic-pilot should have kept us safe.”

“Look!” said Sue, pointing to the automatic-pilot. “The automatic-pilot has been turned off!”

“Who could have done such a thing?” asked Captain Pam.

“Yeah, who?” said Rat.

Dan had an idea *who*.

Sue looked down at the floor. “Look! A clue!” she said. “Someone stepped in wet paint and left little footprints. Little footprints from little, furry feet. Little cat feet!” Captain Pam, Sue, and Dan all looked at Rat.

“Well, we better find the cat that did this,” said Rat.

“I think we have found him,” said Dan. “You were not in your bed last night, Rat!”

“And look,” said Captain Pam, “There is paint on your furry little feet!”

“I told you he would be a nuisance on this cruise,” said Sue.

Captain Pam put out a call to the Coast Guard to come rescue them all. And while they waited, Captain Pam made Rat be the whole

crew.

“Bring me a juice!” said one person.

“Wash my blue suit!” said another.

“Bring me a paper! I want to read the news!”
yelled another.

Rat ran until his feet hurt.

Poor Rat. He should have stuck to Dan like
glue. Wouldn't you?

Vocabulary

ew as long u

drew chew new flew
crew shrew threw blew

**ew as
yu diphthong**

few pew

ui

fruit cruise suit nuisance
bruise juice juicy fruity

ue as long u

true blue glue
clue sue

ue as yu diphthong

cue rescue argue
value continue

-ence

confidence independence residence
absence presence intelligence

Weird Words

captain happen guard should
trouble happened shout could
explore pointing shouted would
bridge exclaim wouldn't don't
automatic exclaimed couldn't won't
people footprints shouldn't can't

Dictation

A few ducks flew past.

We need a new crew for the cruise.

I want a juicy juice made with blue fruit.

Rat got a bruise when the cruise ship sank.

I need a new suit for the cruise.

The glue on the bill is a clue.

We must rescue the crew from the cruise ship.

The wind blew the blue cruise ship over.

Rat drew a blue shrew in a red suit.

Does Rat value his independence?

Will Rat's absence continue?

Dan and Rat argue over Rat's intelligence.

Rat could feel the presence of a dog.

Did Rat plead innocence?

Rat had confidence to steer the ship.

Is Rat's residence in this state?

Rat flew to a new lake.

I value my juice.

Is that dog a nuisance?