

# ***BJ THE CAT***

by Hal Ames



I first met BJ when he was a very young kitten. Some young children had found him, and they were trying to find him a new home. My daughter and I were walking to our house when the children asked us if we wanted to take the kitten. We took him into our hands and we both held the little kitten. He was so calm and gentle. He was gray and had soft fur.

My daughter asked, “Dad, can we keep him?”

The children begged us to take him to our house, but I told them we had to ask my wife first.

My daughter and I raced up the stairs to our apartment to see who would get to the top first.

My daughter was first so she told her mother all about the kitten. She was so excited.

“Mom, there are some children outside who are giving away the sweetest kitten in the whole world. Can we keep him, PLEASE?!” My daughter pleaded.

She said, “NO!”

When I asked my wife about taking the kitten, she said no to me as well.

She did not want a cat in the house again. Someone had stolen our last cat and she missed him very much.

Our last cat’s name was Button. He was a very friendly cat, and he was very

curious. He loved to sit next to us while we watched TV and he would purr very loud. He was very loving and kind. Because of this, she did not want to have another cat and then have it go away as well. It hurt too much.

My daughter and I went back outside. We told the girls we could not take the kitten. They were sad and walked away looking for another family who would take him and give him a good home.

The next day I saw the girls again. They still had the cute little gray kitten. He was so calm and friendly. I held him for a while and he almost fell asleep in my hands. He purred softly as I rubbed his ears. He reminded me of our old cat.

Once again, I went to my wife, and I asked her if we could have the kitten.

She still said, "NO!"

Two days later, I was sitting at my desk working. I looked down and sitting beside me was the little gray kitten. He was looking up at me. I do not have any idea how long he had been sitting there, or how he got into our apartment. I think when my daughter went to school she may have left the door open, and the kitten walked right into the house or maybe she let him in. I do not know for sure.

I looked down at him and I said to him, "Where did you come from?"

He jumped into my lap.

I started to rub his ears and then, pointing to where my wife was sitting, I told him, "Little kitten, you need to tell the lady over there that you belong here."

He jumped down from my lap and went to my wife who was sitting nearby. He stood in front of her looking up at her with a sad face. A face that only the cutest kitten in the world can make.

She was a little surprised when she looked down and saw him sitting there looking so loveable.

She exclaimed, "Where did this come from?"

"I don't know," I said.

I did not have an answer.

The kitten jumped up into her lap. This was a big surprise to my wife.

She tried to ignore him, but he was just too cute. He put his nose on her nose to give her a kiss. Then the kitten curled up and fell asleep on her lap.

He never left the house again. He reminded us so much of our first cat that we named him Button Junior! He became B.J. our wonderful cat.



**"Short Stories for ESL Students"** by **Harold I. Ames** is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License.

**VOCABULARY:** (*Match the word to its definition*)

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. kitten _____    | a. flat, rented place       |
| 2. home _____      | b. top of legs when sitting |
| 3. begged _____    | c. baby cat                 |
| 4. apartment _____ | d. go up quickly            |
| 5. stairs _____    | e. turn away, not looking   |
| 6. purr _____      | f. where one lives          |
| 7. point _____     | g. ask, plead               |
| 8. jump _____      | h. used to go up            |
| 9. lap _____       | i. aim, show with finger    |
| 10. ignore _____   | j. noise from cat           |

**TRUE / FALSE:**

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. B.J. was gray.                              | T / F |
| 2. My wife did not want another cat.           | T / F |
| 3. My daughter hates kittens.                  | T / F |
| 4. We lived in a country house.                | T / F |
| 5. B.J. liked to purr.                         | T / F |
| 6. Button was our old cat.                     | T / F |
| 7. B.J. walked into our house and fell asleep. | T / F |
| 8. Some children wanted to sell the kitten.    | T / F |
| 9. I was working when I saw the kitten.        | T / F |
| 10. My wife made the kitten leave the house.   | T / F |

**MULTIPLE CHOICE:**

1. What was the name of our old cat? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Bitten
  - b) Button
  - c) Junior
  - d) Casper
  
2. Who wanted to give us the kitten? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) my daughter
  - b) my wife
  - c) Button
  - d) little girls
  
3. Why did we name the kitten Button Junior? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) he was like our old cat
  - b) he was small like a button on my shirt
  - c) he liked to eat buttons
  - d) he was so cute
  
4. What did the kitten do after he jumped onto my wife's lap? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) purred
  - b) fell asleep
  - c) kissed her nose
  - d) all of the above

**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. Who wanted to give us the kitten?

---

2. What did my daughter ask me about the kitten?

---

3. How many times did the little girls ask us to take the kitten?

---

4. What did the kitten do when I held him?

---

5. Where did I see the kitten in my house?

---

6. What color was the kitten?

---

7. Who had to agree to keep the kitten?

---

8. How did the kitten get into our house?

---

9. What did I say to the kitten when I saw him in my house?

---

10. What did we name the little kitten?

---