

# *PACHENKA*

by  
Hal Ames



Pachenka was a happy hamster. She lived in a warm cage in a warm house. Every day she ate apples and pineapples. They were her favorite food. She played in her cage and hid in the wood dust to sleep.

Occasionally, a small child took her out of her cage and played with her. She liked playing with the child. Sometimes she would get so tired she would fall asleep in the child's hands.

One day, Pachenka woke up and found herself in a very different place. Her cage was gone!

At first, she was very afraid, but soon she began to explore. She walked this way and then that way looking for food. She was very hungry.

After what seemed like a very long time, she saw a hole in the wall. She decided that it looked like a fun place to go. At first, she put her nose into the hole to smell what might be inside. She smelled a familiar smell. It was apples!

She went into the hole. It was very dark at first. She walked slowly until she bumped into something very hard. She sniffed with her nose. It was an apple. She began to eat. She was so hungry she did not notice that something was behind her.

A voice behind her said, "What are you doing?"

Pachenka jumped. She then turned around. In front of her, she saw a strange

looking hamster, only it was gray and had a long tail.

“I’m sorry, I’m eating an apple. Do you mind not bothering me while I eat?” Pachenka replied.

“That is MY apple you are eating. Who said you could come in here and eat my food?” the strange animal asked.

“I didn’t know that this was your apple. I was very hungry and I love apples. That’s why I’m eating it,” Pachenka explained.

“What’s your name and what kind of animal are you?” the gray animal asked.

“I’m Pachenka. I’m a hamster. Who are you and what kind of animal are you?” Pachenka asked back.

“I’m Papa Da and I’m a mouse. This is my home. We didn’t invite you here. I’ll have to ask you to leave!” Papa Da spoke loudly.

Just then, several other mice came up to Pachenka. They had never seen anything like her before.

A little mouse looked at Pachenka and then asked, “Papa Da, what *is* that?”

“She says that her name is Pachenka. She says that she is a hamster. I’m not sure what that is, but that’s what she said,” Papa Da answered.

“Who are you?” Pachenka asked the other mice.

“I’m Baby Da,” the littlest one said quickly.

“I’m Sister Da,” the next one answered.

“I’m Momma Da,” the bigger one responded.

“I’m Grandpa Da,” an older mouse spoke up.

“I’m Grandma Da,” another said.

“Wait, you’re all named Da?” Pachenka asked very surprised.

“Of course, because we always say ‘da’. That’s why we are all called ‘Da’,” Papa Da explained.

“What does ‘da’ mean?” Pachenka asked, very curious.

“It means ‘yes’. Don’t you know anything?” Momma Da jumped into the

conversation.

Pachenka just looked at her not knowing what to say. She then turned to continue eating the apple.

“I said that’s OUR apple. Go find you own!” Papa Da yelled at Pachenka. “You have to leave our house. You’re not welcome here.”

With that, the mice chased Pachenka out of their home.

Pachenka, trying to be nice, said “Thank you” and “Good-bye” and then searched for a new place to rest.

Pachenka left the mouse’s home by a different way and found herself outside. She had never been in a place like this before.

Soon she came to a hole in the ground. She looked down into the hole. It was dark.

She said, “Hello, is anyone there?”

To her surprise, a large white animal popped out of the hole.

“What do you want?” the animal asked.

“I’m hungry. Do you have anything for me to eat?” Pachenka asked.

“No, I don’t,” the animal responded. “What kind of animal are you?”

“I’m a hamster and my name is Pachenka. What kind of animal are you?” Pachenka asked back.

“My name is Krol. I’m a white rabbit. Haven’t you ever seen a rabbit before?” Krol was surprised at the question.

“Actually no, I’ve never seen a rabbit before,” answered Pachenka.

“Well I guess it’s the same. I’ve never seen a hamster either,” Krol said as he looked at Pachenka.

Krol continued to speak, “The only food I’ve got is a carrot, and I don’t have enough to share. I think you need to look somewhere else.” Then he disappeared back into his hole.

Pachenka continued to search for food. She went under a fence, and to her surprise, she found many pineapples! That was her favorite food. She ate and ate until she got so

fat she could not walk. She lay down to take a nap.

Pachenka woke up suddenly. In front of her was a large black animal.

“Who are you?” Pachenka asked.

“I’m Choko and I’m a cat. You look like a fun toy. I think I’ll take you to my house,” Choko said.

Choko picked up Pachenka by the back of her neck and carried her off.

Pachenka did not know what to do. She was bouncing up and down. She was going somewhere, and she did not know where.

The cat went through a small door and entered a house. They were now in a kitchen. Choko put the hamster onto the floor, and then hit Pachenka with its paw. Pachenka went sliding across the floor. She tried to run, but the floor was very slippery and she could not change her direction. She ended up against the wall under a table.

Another animal walked up and put its nose on Pachenka.

Pachenka turned around to look at the animal.

“What are you doing?” Pachenka asked.

“I’m trying to find out what you are,” the animal said.

“My name is Pachenka and I’m a hamster. Haven’t you ever seen a hamster before,” Pachenka said trying to get far away from the animal.

Pachenka then asked, “What kind of animal are you?”

“I’m a dog. Don’t you know what a dog is?” the dog answered.

“A dog?” Pachenka asked.

“Yes a dog. Everyone knows what a dog is,” the dog said.

“What’s your name?” Pachenka inquired.

“My name is Bimka,” the dog replied.

Choko walked over to see what was going on.

“What are you doing with my new toy,” Choko questioned Bimka.

“Your toy? Where did you get that toy?” Bimka asked

“I found it outside,” Choko said.

Just then, a small child walked into the room. She looked under the table.

“So that’s where you went!” the child said with a big smile on her face.

She picked up Pachenka and put her back into her cage. Pachenka was happy in her home as she ate her apples and pineapples.



**"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. cage _____         | a. orange colored vegetable |
| 2. sniff _____        | b. small human              |
| 3. bumped _____       | c. barrier, enclosure       |
| 4. invited _____      | d. hit softly               |
| 5. conversation _____ | e. place to keep a pet      |
| 6. carrot _____       | f. smooth, slick            |
| 7. fence _____        | g. smell with the nose      |
| 8. nap _____          | h. sleep in the afternoon   |
| 9. slippery _____     | i. asked                    |
| 10. child _____       | j. speaking to someone      |

**TRUE / FALSE:**

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. Pachenka was a hamster.                           | T / F |
| 2. Pachenka woke up outside of her cage.             | T / F |
| 3. Pachenka loves bananas.                           | T / F |
| 4. The mice were all named Da.                       | T / F |
| 5. Pachenka found an apple in a hole in the ground.. | T / F |
| 6. The rabbit was black.                             | T / F |
| 7. The cat ate the hamster.                          | T / F |
| 8. The dog licked Pachenka's nose.                   | T / F |
| 9. The little girl found Pachenka in the kitchen.    | T / F |
| 10. Pachenka was happy to be home in her cage.       | T / F |

**MULTIPLE CHOICE:**

1. What was the name of the little mouse? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Momma Da
  - b) Papa Da
  - c) Baby Da
  - d) Sister Da
  
2. What was the name of the rabbit? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Krol
  - b) Karil
  - c) Kurt
  - d) Da
  
3. Where did the rabbit live? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) in the pineapples
  - b) in the house
  - c) in a hole in the ground
  - d) in a cage
  
4. Who carried Pachenka into the house? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Papa Da
  - b) Krol
  - c) Bimka
  - d) Choko

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

1. Where did Pachenka live?

---

2. Where did she hide when she slept in her cage?

---

3. What was Pachenka eating when she met the mouse?

---

4. To whom did the apple belong?

---

5. Who lived in the hole in the ground?

---

6. What kind of animal was black?

---

7. What was the name of the black animal?

---

8. Where did Pachenka meet the dog?

---

9. What was the name of the dog?

---

10. Who found Pachenka under the table?