

Easy English Stories – Episode 21: Tiny Brain

Target Level: Move 1 and up

Grammar: Using *can* and *can't* to express ability and possibility; talking about what someone or something is able or unable to do

Vocabulary: tiny, clever, cleverest, gentle, tricky, branch, puddle, salty, lever, heavy, delivery

Functions: Talking about abilities and limitations; describing actions and problem-solving; encouraging self-confidence and trying despite challenges

INTRODUCTION

C.S.: Hello, boys and girls! Welcome to Easy English Stories!

Echo: Hello, Captain!

C.S.: Echo, today we are talking about a very special animal... an animal with a very tiny brain. Can you guess what it is before I tell you?

Echo: Hmm... Is it a crow?

C.S.: A crow? Why?

Echo: Because it forgets where it puts things!

C.S.: That's... kind of true, but no, it is not the crow.

Echo: Is it the parrot?

C.S.: The parrot?

Echo: Yes! It repeats everything... but maybe it never thinks for itself.

C.S.: Ha ha, maybe... but not right.

Echo: How about the goldfish?

C.S.: The goldfish?

Echo: It forgets what it was doing a few seconds ago!

C.S.: No, that's not our animal.

Echo: Oh... maybe it is a potato.

C.S.: A potato is not an animal, Echo! It's... it's a rhino.

Echo: A rhino?

C.S.: Yes.

Echo: But it is very big!

C.S.: Yes, a rhino is very big... but it has a tiny brain. Listen to the story and you will see.

Echo: I listen... or I see?

C.S.: Listen, Echo, listen.

MAIN STORY: Tiny Brain

In the forest, all the animals wanted to win the big prize.

The prize was The Food Anytime Delivery Service.

Echo: What is it?

C.S.: It is a free food delivery service. Ants and birds would bring you any food that you wanted, anytime. Just shout your order, and food comes!

Echo: Oh.

The elephant said proudly, "I will win! I am the strongest!"

The fox said, "I will win! I am the smartest and the fastest!"

And the rhino said nothing. He just looked at the animals with his small eyes.

That night, the young rhino went to his friends, the other rhinos. "Tomorrow, I will try to win the prize!" he said.

The other rhinos laughed.

"You? You can never win!" said the old rhino. "Our brains are too tiny. We are only good for eating and sleeping."

"Yes!" said another rhino. "The elephant is strong. The fox is clever. You will look silly."

The young rhino felt sad. "But... I want to try," he said.

The other rhinos laughed loudly. "With that tiny brain? You will never win!"

But the young rhino did not listen. He walked away. In his heart, he knew he had to try.

The game started the next morning. The owl flew down. "Animals!" the owl said. "You must solve three puzzles to win the prize!"

The first puzzle was a rope knot on a wooden trunk.

The owl said, "You must open the knot."

The elephant pulled and pulled... but the rope was stronger.

The fox used her teeth... but the knot did not come loose.

The rhino walked carefully to the knot.

He looked, moved it gently, and thought. Then he broke the tree trunk with his horn.

Now the rope was free. He easily opened the knot.

The other animals were very quiet and looked surprised.

The second puzzle was a chest with a very strong lock. The lock was white and shiny like a crystal.

The owl said, "You must open the lock. Look carefully. Think what will help!"

The elephant pushed and pulled and stomped... but nothing happened. He said, "This lock is too strong for me."

The fox tried to open it with her tools... No luck! She said, "I tried everything. But it doesn't open."

The rhino smelled the strange lock. Then he licked it. It was salty! "It is made of salt crystal," he said. He ran to a puddle, filled his mouth with water, and dripped it on the lock. Slowly, the lock melted, and the chest opened!

The other animals could not believe it.

The last puzzle was a big, heavy stone blocking the path.

The owl said, "You must move the stone. You can use tools, but think first."

The elephant pushed... the stone did not move. He said, "No one can move this stone."

The fox kicked the stone. Then she dug under it. "No luck," she said. "This stone is too big to move."

The rhino looked around, found a long and strong branch, put it under the stone, then put a small rock under the branch, and pushed down. The stone lifted and rolled away!

The owl said, "A lever. Very clever."

The other animals cheered loudly.

The owl said, "The rhino won!"

The elephant said, "But how did he do it?"

The fox said, "He has a tiny brain!"

The owl answered, "His brain may be tiny, but he used his tiny brain better than anyone else!"

The rhino smiled at his friends. The other rhinos smiled back.

The ants and birds came. "You won! What food do you want?"

The rhino thought and said, "I want food for all my friends. We all eat together!"

And so, all the rhinos ate together.

La, la, la. Look at me.

I'm so cool. Honestly!

La, la, la. Tiny brain.

I am winning every game.

(REPEAT X2)

La, la, la

La, la, la

La, la, la

La, la, la. Tiny brain. I am winning every game.

Practice

C.S.: Please repeat after us.

C.S.: I can win.

Echo: I can win.

C.S.: You can try.

Echo: You can try.

C.S.: I can use my brain.

Echo: I can use my brain.

C.S.: The Rhino can open the knot.

Echo: The Rhino can open the knot.

C.S.: We can eat together.

Echo: We can eat together.

Q&A + Fun Fact

C.S.: Now it's question time!

Child 1: Captain Story, how do you stop a rhino from charging?

C.S.: Easy. Take away his credit card!

Child 2: Captain Story, why do we put candles on top of a birthday cake?

C.S.: Because it is too hard to put them at the bottom.

Child 3: Captain Story, why do cows have bells around their necks?

C.S.: Because their horns don't work!

C.S: Now, a fun fact from Echo.

Echo: A rhino's horn is not bone. It is made of keratin — the same stuff as your hair and nails!

C.S.: So a rhino's horn is just a really, really, REALLY long fingernail?

Echo: Yes!

C.S.: Thanks for this interesting fun fact. Now let's say goodbye to the girls and boys who listened to us.

Echo: Goodbye!

C.S.: See you next week.