

The Teacher
Mouse Idioms
By K. Mahfoudh

In this episode, The Teacher introduces you to three idiomatic phrases connected with mice.

- 1- As poor as a church- mouse
 - 2- As quiet as a mouse
 - 3- When the cat's away, the mice will play.
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Hello, I'm a very interesting and intelligent man.
And today I'm getting together with my little rodents (a group of mice in a terrarium) to teach you a thing or two about English idioms.

I bet you've never been taught by a mouse before!

As you know mice are intelligent and fun to watch, because they're quite entertaining pets. But you might think that mice are smelly and symbolize poverty -and you're right. I mean look at them in their terrarium, like me **as poor as a church-mouse...**! In fact, I have no car, no pets, no computer... hardly anything.

So in English if someone has got few possessions, no wealth or is very poor we can say he is as poor as a church-mouse. That means he's poor.

(The Teacher whispers) Hey, look at them! They're looking for cover in their terrarium, aren't they? They're shy and very quiet like my boss. Actually, my boss is **as quiet as a mouse**. In English we can say somebody is as quiet as a mouse if he makes no noise or is quiet. Yesterday my boss came into the studio as quiet as a mouse while I was recording a video.

(The teacher listening to the mice) What? The boss has just left? Great..! **When the cat's away, the mice will play.**

So, come on, what do you think the idiom "when the cat's away, the mice will play" means?

That's right, it means to be able to enjoy one's freedom, when the person in authority is away. I always use this idiom when my boss is not around and now I don't feel like doing what I should do! So, let's go to the pub in Sfax Boulevard and have a drink and fun! Hooray!