

## 2.3 Teeny-tiny



Here's a traditional English story that creates horror and fun at the same time. The words teeny-tiny repeated throughout the story add to the fun. The story takes you to the world of fantasy where ordinary things also appear mysterious. Stories of old women are common in traditional tales of many regions.

- Teeny-tiny : very small

1. You know that adjectives are used to describe nouns. They describe many aspects of a noun. Find more examples that will fit in each of the boxes below:

### Size

small, ....

a small stone

### Age

young, ....

a young man

### Shape

square, ....

a square box

### Colour

pink, ....

a pink dress

### Origin

Chinese, ....

Chinese rice

### Quality

kind, wise,

a wise king

### Material

plastic, ....

a plastic toy

### Use

swimming, ....

a swimming tank

Warming  
up!



2. See what other single adjective or pair of adjectives you can use in place of 'teeny-tiny' in the story that follows. Do the adjectives fit well in all places? Do you have to make any other changes in the story if you change the adjective? Listen/Read carefully and decide.

## TEENY-TINY

ONCE upon a time there was a teeny-tiny woman who lived in a teeny-tiny house in a teeny-tiny village. Now, one day this teeny-tiny woman tied her teeny-tiny scarf, and went out of her teeny-tiny house to take a teeny-tiny walk. And when this teeny-tiny woman had gone a teeny-tiny way, she came to a teeny-tiny gate; so the teeny-tiny woman opened the teeny-tiny gate, and went into a teeny-tiny churchyard.

And when this teeny-tiny woman had got into the teeny-tiny churchyard, she saw a teeny-tiny bone on a teeny-tiny grave, and the teeny-tiny woman said to her teeny-tiny self :

‘This teeny-tiny bone will make me some teeny-tiny soup for my teeny-tiny supper.’

So the teeny-tiny woman put the teeny-tiny bone into her teeny-tiny pocket, and went home to her teeny-tiny house.

Now, when the teeny-tiny woman got home to her teeny-tiny house, she was a teeny-tiny bit tired; so she went up her teeny-tiny stairs to her

- churchyard : an enclosed area around a church, where people are buried.
- grave : a place where a person is buried
- supper : ‘last meal of the day’



teeny-tiny bed, and put the teeny-tiny bone into a teeny-tiny cupboard. And when this teeny-tiny woman had been to sleep a teeny-tiny time, she was awakened by a teeny-tiny voice from the teeny-tiny cupboard, which said:

**‘Give me my bone!’**

And this teeny-tiny woman was a teeny-tiny bit frightened, so she hid her teeny-tiny head under the teeny-tiny clothes and went to sleep again. And when she had been to sleep again a teeny-tiny time, the teeny-tiny voice again cried out from the teeny-tiny cupboard a teeny-tiny louder,

**‘Give me my bone!’**

This made the teeny-tiny woman a teeny-tiny more frightened, so she hid her teeny-tiny head a teeny-tiny further under the teeny-tiny clothes. And when the teeny-tiny woman had been to sleep again a teeny-tiny time, the teeny-tiny voice from the teeny-tiny cupboard said again a teeny-tiny louder,

**‘Give me my bone!’**

And this teeny-tiny woman was a teeny-tiny bit more frightened, but she put her teeny-tiny head out of the teeny-tiny clothes, and said in her loudest teeny-tiny voice,

**‘TAKE IT!’**



**Think and answer :**

- ⊗ Why is the teeny-tiny voice’s speech given in a larger type every time?



## ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. Describe the teeny-tiny woman's house using details from the story and your imagination.
  
2. Read the following sentences and fill in the blanks.
  - The teeny-tiny woman lived in a teeny-tiny .....
  - The teeny-tiny woman went out to take a .....
  - The teeny-tiny woman went into a teeny-tiny .....
  - The teeny-tiny woman found a teeny-tiny ..... on a teeny-tiny .....
  - The teeny-tiny woman put the teeny-tiny ..... into her teeny-tiny .....
  - The teeny-tiny woman went home and put the teeny-tiny ..... into a teeny-tiny .....
  - The teeny-tiny woman was awaked by a teeny-tiny ..... from the teeny-tiny .....
  - The teeny-tiny woman was .....
  - The teeny-tiny woman said in her ..... teeny-tiny voice.
  
3. The word 'teeny-tiny' is a compound word, that is, a word made of two words. Words like teeny-tiny are mostly used in informal language, children's stories and songs, folk tales etc. Write other words like teeny-tiny.
 

incy ..... tick ..... flip ..... hickary .....

chit ..... criss ..... ding ..... bow.....
  
4. Use the list of adjectives you have made in the activity on page 44. See if you can write funny/meaningful sentences using one or more of these adjectives. For example :
  - \* A big red ant found a big red grain of corn in a big red house.
  - \* The little silver fairy cut the little silver paper with little silver scissors.
  
5. Think of a repetitive story about an old woman from your mother tongue. Try to translate it into English.
  
6. Discuss and write briefly.
  - \* What you should do when you find something in the street.
  - \* What could have happened when the old woman said, 'TAKE IT' ?



**Main verbs and auxiliary (helping) verbs**



- Read the following sentences.
  1. She came to a teeny-tiny gate.
  2. The teeny-tiny woman opened the teeny-tiny gate.
  3. She was a teeny-tiny bit tired.
  4. She had a dog.
  5. She does all the work.

Here in 3, 4 and 5 respectively, the verbs ‘be’ (was), ‘have’ (had) and ‘do’ (does) are used as **main verbs**. But ‘be’, ‘have’ and ‘do’ are also used with other main verbs to show certain things. Then they are called **helping** or **auxiliary verbs**. Let us see some of these uses.

**Auxiliary Verb : Do**

- ‘Do’ is used with the main verb –

(a) **To form questions : Yes/no questions**

**Wh- questions**

Do you know the answer?

What did she say?

Did you see the bird?

What does he want?

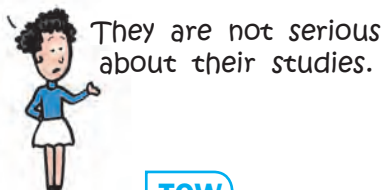
- \* Underline the main verb in the above questions.

Can we drop/remove the main verb from the questions?



(b) **To form negative sentences :**

- We did not eat it.
- She does not like flowers.
- They did not do it.



They are not serious about their studies.

**TOW**

**Two minutes of Oral Work**

Tell as many negative sentences as possible within two minutes.

They don't know what they are missing.



She does not play.



We don't like to study.



Don't be so negative.

