

The country mouse and the city mouse

There once _____ (be) a tiny little mouse from the city. One day, the city mouse _____ (go) to visit his friend from the countryside; the country mouse.

The two mice _____ (be) best friends and being together _____ (make) them both very happy.

The country mouse _____ (be) simple yet generous. He _____ (offer) his friend some food: bread, butter, cheese and beans.

However, as the city mouse _____ (start) to eat the meal, he _____ (not like) it and _____ (begin) to feel a little bit sick.

'Aren't you hungry?' _____ (ask) the country mouse.

'Very. But this food is not like the food from the city. I don't like it!' _____ (say) the city mouse.

The two mice _____ (spend) the day together. They _____ (have) fun walking around the countryside. When it _____ (grow) dark they _____ (say) goodbye.

Before he _____ (go) home, the city mouse _____ (invite) the country mouse to his home in the city, to try the incredible food there.

The following week, the country mouse _____ (*scuttle) all the way to the city. He _____ (find) his friend.

'Here in the city we don't eat until six o' clock,' _____ (inform) the city mouse. 'Wait until the evening and you'll see how yummy the food is! It's worth the wait!' The evening _____ (arrive), and the sun _____ (set). The city mouse _____ (show) the country mouse his little *den in a big human house.

The humans had set their dinner table with every dessert, meat and cheese a little mouse could imagine. It _____ (be) heaven!

The mice _____ (start) to *gobble the cakes, the meats and the different cheeses. The country mouse _____ (love) the cured ham and salami. He _____ (gobble) it up.

As the mice _____ (start) to feel full, they _____ (hear) a bark!

'What is that?' _____ (scream) the country mouse. He _____

_____ (not like) that loud noise. He _____ (feel) afraid.
'Oh no! It's the guard dog! Run!' _____ (cry) the city mouse.
They both _____ (run) quickly and _____ (try) to escape.
The country mouse _____ (follow) the city mouse back to the den. It
was a close call. The dog almost _____ (catch) them.
'Sorry, city mouse, but I'm going home now! See you!' _____ (*pant) the
country mouse.
'Why? Don't you want to eat more delicious food?' _____ (ask) the city
mouse.
"You may have luxuries and dainties that I have not," the country mouse
_____ (say) as she _____ (hurry) away, "but I prefer my plain
food and simple life in the country with the peace and security that go with it."

***To scuttle:** Moving quickly with short, hasty steps

den: a cosy, small, quiet multi purpose room in a house

To gobble: Swallowing or eating food very quickly, greedily, or without chewing properly

To pant: breathing heavily after intense activity

Moral of the story:

Poverty with security is better than plenty in the midst of fear and uncertainty.

(It is better to live a simple, quiet life than a rich and dangerous one)