The Kitchen Thief

Story 2 • Level A2 • People: Maya, Leo and Grandpa



It was midnight . ↘ The house was dark and quiet

. Maya was asleep . ↘ Then a small hand touched

her arm .

Leo : [*whispering*] May•a ! ↘ Wake up ! ↘

Maya : Leo ? ↗ What time is it ? ↘

Leo : Listen . ↘ There's a noise downstairs . ↘

Maya : I can't hear anything . ↘ Go back to bed . ↘

Then they both heard it . ↘ Clink . ↘ Clink . ↘

SayNative
https://saynative.com/

'm aɪ ə
May•a :

'oʊ ˌkeɪ aɪ 'h ɝ d ð æ t
O•**K** . ↘ I **heard** th a t . ↘

'l i: oʊ
Le•o :

ɪ t ∅ s ə 'θ i: f h i: ∅ z ɪ n ð ə 'k ɪ tʃ ∅ ən
I t ' s a **th ie f** . ↘ He ' s i n th e **ki tch** e•n . ↘
linked linked

'm aɪ ə
May•a :

'θ i: v ∅ z d oʊ n ∅ t 'goʊ t ə ð ə 'k ɪ tʃ ∅ ən , 'l i: oʊ
Thie ves d o n ' t **go** t o th e **ki tch** e•n , **Le**•o .
dropped

ð eɪ 'teɪ k ∅ 'ti: ˌvi: z
Th ey **take** **T**•**Vs** . ↘

'l i: oʊ
Le•o :

'm eɪ bi ∅ ð ɪ s 'oʊ n i ? ɪ z 'h ʌ ŋ g ɹ i
May•b e th i s **o**•ne ? i s **hun**•gry . ↘
linked j-glide



'm aɪ ə 't ʊ k h ɝ 'f oʊ n i ? 'l i: oʊ 't ʊ k h ɪ z 't ɛ n ə s 'ɹ æ k ɪ t
May•a **took** h er **pho**•ne ? . ↘ **Le**•o **took** h i s **tenn**•i s **rack**•e t

ð eɪ 'wɔ: ∅ k t 'd aʊ n ð ə 's t ɛ ɹ z 'v ɛ ɹ i 's l oʊ l i
. ↘ Th ey **wa**l**ked** **down** th e **st ai rs** **ver**•y **slow**•l y .
dropped

'm aɪ ə
May•a :

'w aɪ d ə j u: h æ v ∅ ð æ t
Why d o y ou h a v e th a t ? ↘

'l i: oʊ
Le•o :

t ə 'h ɪ t ð ə 'θ i: f
T o **hit** th e **th ie f** . ↘

'm aɪ ə
May•a :

j u: k æ n ∅ t 'h ɪ t ə 'bɔ: l w ɪ ð ɪ t
Y ou c a n ' t **hit** a **ba ll** wi th i t .
dropped r flap linked

ˈl iː oʊ
Le•o :

ə ˈθ iː f ɪ z ˈb ɪ g ɚ ð ə n ə ˈb ɔː l
A **th ie f** i s **b igg•er** th a n a **ba ll** .

linked linked

ˈð ɛ ɻ ∅ w ə z ə ˈl aɪ t ˈʌ n d ɚ ð ə ˈk ɪ tʃ ∅ ən ˈd ɔː ɻ
There was a **l igh t un•d er** th e **ki tch** e•n **door** .

linked r flap

ˈm aɪ ə
May•a :

ˈs t eɪ b ɪ ˈh aɪ n d m iː aɪ ∅ l ˈk aʊ n t t ə ˈθ ɻ iː
Stay be•**h ind** me . ↘ I ' ll **coun t** to **th r ee** . ↘

∅ dropped ∅ dropped

ˈl iː oʊ
Le•o :

ə n d ˈæ f t ɚ ˈθ ɻ iː
And **a f•t er th r ee** ?↗

linked

ˈm aɪ ə
May•a :

w iː ˈoʊ p ∅ən ð ə ˈd ɔː ɻ
We **o•p**en th e **door** . ↘

j-glide

ˈl iː oʊ
Le•o :

ə n d ˈæ f t ɚ ð æ t
And **a f•t er th a t** ?↗

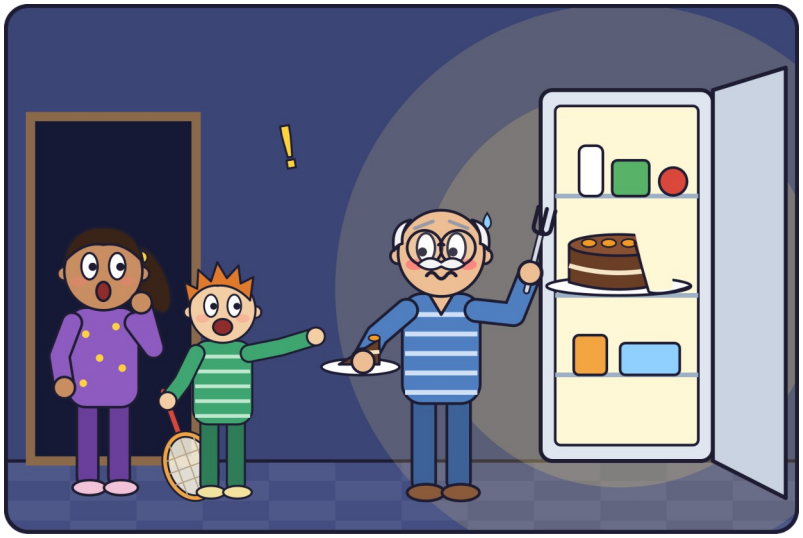
linked

ˈm aɪ ə
May•a :

aɪ d oʊ n ∅ t ∅ ˈn oʊ aɪ d oʊ n ∅ t h æ v ∅ ə ˈp l ʌ n
I d on ' t k **now** . ↘ I d on ' t h av e a **p lan** ? . ↘

∅ dropped ∅ dropped linked

SayNative
https://saynative.com/



'm aɪ ə 'oʊ p ∅ ən ∅ d ð ə 'd ɔː ɹ ð ə 'f ɹ ɪ dʒ ∅ w ə z 'oʊ p ∅ ən ɪ n
May•a **o**•pened the **door** . ↘ The **fridge** was **o**•pen . ↘ In
linked ∅ dropped linked

'f ɹ ʌ n t ə v ɪ t 's t ʊ d 'g ɹ æ n d ˌpɑː ɪ n h ɪ z p ə 'dʒɑː m ə z w ɪ ð
front of it **stood** **Grand**•**pa** , ↗ in his pa•**jam**•as , ↗ with
linked linked

ə 'f ɔː ɹ k ɪ n h ɪ z 'h æ n d
a **fork** in his **hand** .
linked

'g ɹ æ n d ˌpɑː 'oʊ 'g ʊ d 'iː v ∅ ən ɪ ŋ ? 'tʃ ɪ l d ɚ ∅ ən ?
Grand•**pa** : **Oh** . ↘ **Good** **e**•ven•ing , **chil**•dren . ↘
r flap

'l iː oʊ 'g ɹ æ n d ˌpɑː j ʊ ∅ ɹ ∅ ð ə 'θ iː f
Le•o : **Grand**•**pa** ! ↘ You're the **thief** ! ↘

'g ɹ æ n d ˌpɑː aɪ ∅ m n ɑː t ə 'θ iː f aɪ 'l aɪ v ∅ ² 'h ɪ ɹ ∅ ?
Grand•**pa** : I'm not a **thief** . ↘ I **live** **here** . ↘
r flap

'm aɪ ə ɪ z ð æ t 'mɑː m ∅ z 'b ɝ θ ˌd eɪ 'k eɪ k ∅
May•a : Is that **Mom's** **birth**•**day** **cake** ? ↗

'g ɹ æ n d ˌpɑː ə 'v ɛ ɹ i 's m ɔː l 'p iː s ∅
Grand•**pa** : [*looking at the fork*] A **ver**•y **small** **piece**

ə v ɪ t
of it .
linked

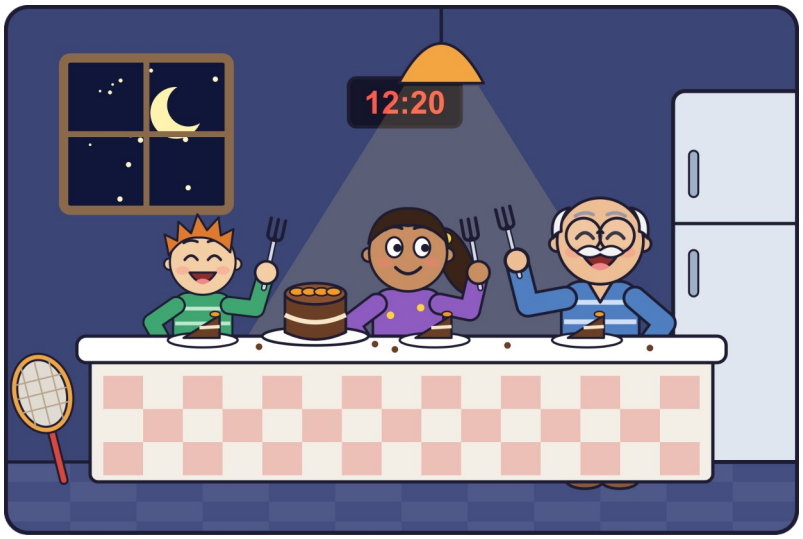
'm aɪ ə h ɝ 'b ɝ θ ˌd eɪ ɪ z t ə 'mɑː ɹ oʊ
May•a : Her **birth**•**day** is to•**morr**•ow ! ↘
j-glide

SayNative
https://saynative.com/

ˈɡɹ æ n d ˌpɑː aɪ ∅ ˈn oʊ aɪ ˈwɔː n t ɪ d t ə ˈtʃ ɛ k ð ə ˈkeɪ k ∅
Grand•pa : I **know** . ↘ I **wan•ted** to **check** the **cake** .

ɪ t ∅ s ˈv ɛ ɹ i ˈɡ ʊ d aɪ ˈtʃ ɛ k t ɪ t ˈθ ɹ iː
It's **ver•y** **good** . ↘ I **checked** it **three**
linked

ˈt aɪ m ∅ z
times . ↘



ˈl iː oʊ ˈp ʊ t ˈd aʊ n h ɪ z ˈɹ æ k ɪ t h iː ˈl ʊ k t ə t ð ə ˈkeɪ k ∅ f ɚ
Le•o **put** **down** his **rack•et** . ↘ He **looked** at the **cake** for
linked

ə ˈl ɔː ŋ ˈt aɪ m ∅
a **long** **time** .

ˈl iː oʊ ɪ z ɪ t ˈtʃ ɔː k ∅ l ə t ∅
Le•o : Is it **choco•late** ? ↗
linked

ˈɡɹ æ n d ˌpɑː ˈtʃ ɔː k ∅ l ə t ∅ ə n d ˈɔː ɹ ə n dʒ ∅
Grand•pa : **Choco•late** and **or•ange** . ↘
r flap linked

ˈm aɪ ə ˈl iː oʊ n oʊ
May•a : **Le•o** , no . ↘

ˈl iː oʊ aɪ ˈoʊ n l i ˈwɔː n t ? t ə ˈtʃ ɛ k ɪ t
Le•o : I **on•ly** **want** to **check** it .
j-glide ∅ dropped linked

SayNative
https://saynative.com/

ˈɡɹ æ n d ˌpɑː ˈt ʊ k ˈt uː ˈmɔː ɹ ∅ ˈfɔː ɹ k s f ɹ ə m ð ə ˈd ɹ ɔː ∅ ɹ ˈs uː n
Grand•pa took two more forks from the **drawer** . **Soon**

ɔː l ˈθ ɹ iː ə v ð ∅əm ˈs æ t ə t ð ə ˈt eɪ b əl ∅
a ll **three** of them **sat** at the **ta•ble** .

j-glide ɾ flap

ˈm aɪ ə ð ɪ s ɪ z ∅ ˈɹ ɔː ŋ ˈmɑː m w ɪ l ˈs iː ð ə
May•a : [*eating*] This is **wrong** . ↘ **Mom** will **see** the

linked

ˈk eɪ k ∅ t ə ˈmɑː ɹ oʊ w ʌ t d ə w iː ˈt ɛ l h ɝ
cake to•**morr•ow** . What do we **tell** her ? ↘

ˈɡɹ æ n d ˌpɑː ð ə ˈt ɹ uː θ ˈð ɛ ɹ ∅ w ə z ə ˈθ iː f ɪ n ð ə
Grand•pa : The **truth** . ↘ **There** was a **thief** in the

linked linked

ˈk ɪ tʃ ∅ ən
kitch•en .

ˈl iː oʊ ə n d w iː ˈs t ɑː p t h ɪ m
Le•o : And we **stopped** him . ↘

∅ dropped ∅ dropped

ˈɡɹ æ n d ˌpɑː ˈj ɛ s ə ˈl ɪ ɾ əl ∅ ˈl eɪ t ∅
Grand•pa : **Yes** . ↘ A **litt•le** **late** . ↘

SayNative
https://saynative.com/

HOW TO READ THIS PAGE

'riːd **read**	Stressed part — say it louder & longer	tə to	Weak word — say it quick & soft
∅ e	Silent letter — don't say it	θ th	Two letters spell one sound
wa•ter	Dot · marks a syllable break	go on	Linked — blend the words together
? ↗ ↘	Voice rises ↗ or falls ↘	sɛvən 7	Number — how to say it aloud
read ²	Has a second pronunciation	guess ?	Best guess — double-check it

IPA KEY

Vowels	i as in *happy*	iː as in *see*	uː as in *blue*	æ as in *cat*	ɑː as in *father*	
	ɔː as in *law*	ə as in *about*	ɛ as in *bed*	ɪ as in *sit*	ʊ as in *put*	
	ʌ as in *cup*					
Diphthongs	aɪ as in *my*	aʊ as in *cow*	eɪ as in *say*	oʊ as in *boat*	ɔɪ as in *boy*	
R-colored	ɚ as in *letter*	ɝ as in *bird*				
Consonants	dʒ as in *judge*	j as in *yes*	tʃ as in *chair*	ð as in *this*	ŋ as in *sing*	
	ɹ as in *red*	ɾ as in *butter*	ʃ as in *shop*	θ as in *thin*		

'n uː 'w ɝ d z New words

'm ɪ d ˌn aɪ t **mid•night**	't w ɛ l v ∅ oʊ ∅ 'k l ɑː k ? ə t 'n aɪ t . ↘ **Twelve** o **'clock** at **night** . linked linked
'n ɔɪ z ∅ **noise**	ə 's aʊ n d , 'ɔː f ∅ ∅ ən ? ə 'l aʊ d ɔː ɹ 's t ɹ eɪ n dʒ ∅ A **sound** , **of**te•n a **loud** or **strange** linked r flap 'oʊ n i ? **o•ne** .
'θ iː f **thief**	ə 'p ɝ s ə n h uː 't eɪ k ∅ s 'θ ɪ ŋ z f ɹ ə m 'ʌ ð ɚ A **per•son** **who** **takes** **things** **from** **oth•er** linked 'piː ∅ ∅ p əl ∅ **peo•ple** .
'd aʊ n ˌs t ɛ ɹ z **down•stairs**	ɑː n ə 'l oʊ ɚ 'f l ɔː ɹ ə v ə 'h aʊ s ∅ On a **low•er** **floor** of a **house** . linked linked linked
'f ɹ ɪ dʒ ∅ **fridge**	ə 'koʊ l d 'bɑːks ɪ n ð ə 'k ɪ tʃ ∅ ən . ɪ t 'k iː p s A **cold** **box** in the **kitch•en** . It **keeps** dropped linked 'f uː d 'f ɹ ɛ ʃ **food** **fresh** . ↘
ə 'p iː s ∅ ʌ v a **piece** of linked	ə 'smɔː l 'pɑː ɹ t ə v ə 'θ ɪ ŋ . A **small** **part** of a **thing** . linked linked

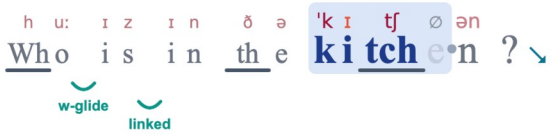
ˈkwɛs tʃ∅ənz
Ques•tions

1. wʌt ˈtaɪm∅ ɪz ɪt wɛn ˈliː oʊ ˈweɪk∅s ˈmaɪ ə
What **time** is it when **Le•o wakes May•a** ?↘
linked linked

2. wʌt də∅z ˈliː oʊ ˈteɪk∅ wɪ ð hɪm ənd ˈwaɪ
What does **Le•o take** with him, and **why** ?↗
∅ dropped









3. huː ɪz ɪn ðə ˈkɪ tʃ ∅ ən
Who is in the **kitche•n** ?↘
w-glide linked

4. huː ɪz ðə ˈkeɪk∅ fɔː ɹ
Who is the **cake** for ?↘
w-glide

5. wʌt də ˈmaɪ ə ˈliː oʊ ənd ˈgɹænd ˌpɑː də ət ð i ˈɛnd
What do **May•a**, **Le•o** and **Grand•pa** do at the **end** ?↗
w-glide ∅ dropped linked j-glide

ˈtɔː∅k ə b aʊ t ɪ t
Talk a•bout it
linked ɾ flap

də juː ˈɛv ɚ ˈiː t ət ˈnaɪ t wʌt ɪz j ɚ ˈfeɪ v ɚ ɪ t∅
Do you **ev•er eat** at **night** ?↗ What is your **fa•vor•ite**
w-glide linked ɾ flap ɾ flap z+j → ʒ

ˈmɪd ˌnaɪ t ˈfuː d
mid•night food ?↘





