
Whiskers the Cat and the Size of the Problem

Whiskers is a cat who lives in a busy city. Every day, Whiskers meets different kinds of problems.

Some problems are **small**, some are **medium**, and some are **big**.

Whiskers is still learning to match the **size of the reaction** to the **size of the problem**.

One morning, Whiskers is walking down the sidewalk.

A loud truck drives by and splashes a little water near his paws.

This is a **small problem**.

Whiskers feels surprised.

Whiskers takes a breath, shakes his paws, and keeps walking.

His reaction **matches** the size of the problem.

This helps Whiskers stay calm and continue his day.

Later, Whiskers goes to his favourite café. The café is out of his favourite fish treat.

This is a **small problem**.

No one is hurt, and Whiskers is safe.

But Whiskers yowls loudly, knocks over a chair, and runs away.

This reaction is **bigger than the problem**.

Because the reaction does not match:

- People feel confused
- The problem feels bigger than it is
- Whiskers does not get help

Let's rewrite this part with a reaction that matches the problem:

When Whiskers learns the café is out of fish treats, he

That night, Whiskers smells smoke in the alley near his home.

A trash can is on fire.

This is a **big problem**.

There could be danger.

But Whiskers ignores it and curls up to nap.

This reaction is **smaller than the problem**.

Because the reaction does not match:

- The problem may get worse
- Whiskers may not stay safe
- Others do not know help is needed

Let's rewrite this part with a reaction that matches the problem:

When Whiskers smells smoke, he

Whiskers Is Learning

Whiskers is still learning how to:

- Notice the size of the problem
- Choose a reaction that fits

Sometimes Whiskers gets it right.

Sometimes he needs practice.

Learning takes time, and that is okay.