



WHY CATS KNOCK THINGS OFF TABLES?

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PDF 1: Warm-up & Reading

Why Cats Knock Things Off Tables



Not bad behavior... just cat science!

Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Sounds Like
knock	to push something so it falls	NOK
behavior	the way a person or animal acts	bee-HAYV-yor
instinct	natural behavior an animal is born with	IN-stinkt
curious	wanting to know or learn about things	KYOOR-ee-us
experiment	to test something to see what happens	ik-SPER-i-ment
entertain	to keep someone interested and amused	en-ter-TAYN
attention	notice or interest from others	uh-TEN-shun
normal	usual and expected	NOR-mul

Warm-up Questions (Discuss in pairs)

1. Do you have a cat or know someone who does?
2. Have you ever seen a cat knock something off a table? What happened?
3. Why do you think cats do this?

The Story – Why Cats Knock Things Off Tables

Mia was doing her homework when she heard a loud crash. Her cat, Terry, had just knocked her favorite mug off the table. Again. “Why do you always do that?” Mia asked, looking at the mess on the floor. Terry sat on the table looking very pleased with herself.

Mia decided to find out the real reason. She learned that cats don’t knock things off tables because they are naughty. They do it for several clever reasons.

First, cats are natural hunters. When they see something on the edge, they want to test if it moves — just like prey. Second, they are extremely curious. They love experimenting: “What happens if I push this?” Third, many cats get bored easily and knocking things down is fun and entertaining for them. And finally, they quickly learn that this behavior gets their human’s attention — even if it’s not the kind of attention we want!

Scientists say this behavior is completely normal. It’s part of a cat’s natural instincts and their love of movement and play.

Mia looked at Terry and smiled. “Okay, I understand now. But can you please stop knocking my mug off the table?”

Terry just blinked slowly and purred.

Fun Facts

- Cats knock things off tables to test if they move — like hunting practice.
- They love watching things fall because it’s fun and entertaining.
- Many cats do this when they are bored or want attention.
- It’s not bad behavior — it’s just cat science!

Comprehension Questions

A. True or False

True / False

1. Cats knock things off tables because they are naughty.
2. This behavior is part of their natural hunting instinct.
3. Cats never do this when they are bored.

B. Answer the questions

1. What are two reasons why cats knock things off tables?
2. Why does Terry look pleased in the story?
3. What advice would you give Mia?

C. What do you think?

Look at the big picture. Why do you think the cat is pushing the plant pot?