

Nuair a bhíonn an cat  
amuigh, bíonn an  
luch ag rince

*When the cat's away,  
the mouse is dancing*

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**Teacher's  
Notes**



in partnership with

# Nuair a bhíonn an cat amuigh, bíonn an luch ag rince

This is a seanfhocal that means ‘when the cat is away, the mouse is dancing’.



*Suggested teaching steps*

## Step 1

### Watch the song video and learn the song together.

In the song, the full phrase is sung 3 times, and then the words ‘ag rince’ are sung 3 times. In the word ‘rince’, there is a large leap down - an octave, from high C to low C. Practise this leap slowly. Take care to sing these notes well and not jump down too low! Hint: to help sing this challenging leap accurately, put a little more emphasis on the first syllable of ‘rince’ and a little less on the second syllable.

During the video, you will see the words ‘miaow’ and ‘squeak’. Practise doing these and placing them correctly in the song. Perform the song and the sound effects all together, or divide the class into two groups: one to sing the song, the other to do the sound effects, and then swap.



## Step 2

**Compose new verses** with the class by replacing the words ‘ag rince’ with other suitable activities for the mouse:

**Nuair a bhíonn an cat amuigh, bíonn an luch \_\_\_\_\_.**

Discuss whether some ideas fit better than others (e.g. due to length/rhythm/syllabic stress). Sing the new verses along with the video/backing track.

Examples: ag súgradh, ag rith, ag gáire, ag ithe, ag canadh, ag fanacht/ag feitheamh, ag léim, ag éisteacht, ag smaoineamh, i bhfolach, ina codladh/ina chodladh, ag péinteáil, ar bís.

Add some actions for each verse.

## Step 3

**Play a game of ‘Deir Ó Grádaigh’ (Simon Says)** using the examples above and/or ideas from the class.

## Step 4

**Colour in the colouring page for this song**

## Step 5

**Create a comic strip inspired by the song**

## Step 6

**Perform the song without the video.** Use the backing track; or, if you and/or the children play instruments, sing and play the piece together. You’ll find the chords and the notes in the music score.

**Further activity:** Use the music notation on the video screen to learn melodic features such as steps, leaps, repeated notes, and rests.



Nuair a bhíonn  
an cat amuigh,  
bíonn  
an luch  
ag rince

