

brian's ramblings /6/ getting **the job** done

Dogs always **seem to worry** what you think about them, but cats **don't care**. I like to watch **the way** cats move. "When you come **over** to my house," I said, "you always want to play with Meeko." -- "That's **different**, and you know it." -- "**How** is it different?"

"In your house you have **different rules**. If you want to play with Squirrel **that badly**, we can go outside. Not now, **though**. Later. If I can't **get** this computer fixed **in** half an hour **or so**, my father's **going to** find out and **get mad** and send it back."

Squirrel was **gone** now. "I **don't see why** it's **such a big deal** to let a cat in your room."

"You don't know my father. He's always **on the verge of saying** that we have to **get rid of** Squirrel. My mother **gets upset** when she sees dead animals on the welcome mat. My father gets mad when Squirrel **tears up** the screen. That's why **there's** no screen on my window. Squirrel **kept ripping** it with his claws, climbing up it and hanging there and yelling at me."

"O.K. Let's **get to work**." Callie **handed** me a screwdriver. I **had a little trouble loosening** the screws. "You **weren't kidding** when you said you tightened these screws, **were you?**" -- "**Here, let me try.**"

"**I can do it.**" I **got** the back cover **off** and looked inside. It was **exactly what** I thought. The consumer magazine **had** warned about this problem, **too**. It was **related to** the problem of grounding the circuit. The case is so **flimsy** that if you **drop** it too **hard** or **knock** it against something, the contact I mentioned **gets broken**. **The whole thing** was a little **bent** now. But **since** I **had** known **what to expect**, I **had** come prepared.