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The Witches of Nakashige sample  
NOT FOR SALE

## THE WITCHES OF NAKASHIGE

Level 3 - A2/B1 Intermediate (1) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

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## 1. Akira gets a letter

Akira Fujihara got home from work. He looked in his mailbox. There was a letter. This was unusual. Akira didn't often get letters. He got bills and advertising brochures, but not letters.

He took the letter upstairs to his apartment. He took off his shoes and his raincoat in the entry hall. He went into his small living room, and poured himself some cold tea. He sat down and looked at the envelope. The post mark was Nakashige-cho.

Akira stared at it. He had an aunt who lived in Nakashige-cho. He hadn't seen her since he was a child. She sent him a New Year card every year, and he sent one to her. But that was all. The envelope was printed. His aunt was more than eighty years old. Would she have a computer and printer?

He opened the letter and read it.

It was about his aunt. It was from a man called Junpei Hara. He wrote:

*--I own a business near your aunt's house. I found out that you are her only relative. Please excuse me for writing to you, but I am very worried about your aunt. She has many problems. I thought you should know.*

*She's more than eighty years old and she lives alone. The house is old, and it needs many repairs. I don't know if your aunt has the money to pay for them.*

*Recently there was a fire in the house. It was very small, and no one was hurt. But then, a few days later, your aunt fell over in the garden. She hurt her arm and her leg. But she wouldn't go to the hospital.*

*It seems it is dangerous for her to live alone. I think she must leave her house and go to live in an old people's home. I cannot tell her this. I am not a family member. But I think that you should write to her or call her, and tell her that this is the best thing to do.'*

*From Junpei Hara---*

Akira read the letter again. He was a very kind man and he was worried.

*It seems my aunt is old and sick, he thought. I am a very bad nephew. I have never been to visit her. Today is Monday. I will take some vacation days next week. I will leave here on Friday or Saturday. I will stay there for one week. That will be enough time to arrange for an old people's home.*

He cooked himself some noodles and ate them. He lived alone and he was not a good cook.

After dinner, he went to the desk in the corner of the room. He found writing paper and envelopes. He found a small pile of New Year's cards from January.

*I'm pleased I didn't throw these away. My aunt's card will have her address on it, he thought.*

He wrote a letter to Hara san. He thanked him for telling him about his aunt. Akira wrote that he was a bad nephew. He had not cared for his aunt. But he would do better in future. He would go to Nakashige-cho to visit her. He hoped to arrive on Saturday. If his aunt had another accident or some other trouble, he wanted Hara san to call him immediately. He wrote his telephone number at the top of the letter.

Then he wrote to his aunt. This was a very difficult letter to write. He didn't want to tell his aunt about Hara san's letter. So he wrote:

*--I have been thinking about you. I plan to take a vacation. I'd like to come and visit you this weekend. I hope that will be convenient. I am looking forward to seeing you after so many years.--*

----END OF SAMPLE----