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Ken's Story Part 1 sample
NOT FOR SALE

KEN'S STORY PART 1

Level 1 - A1/A2 Starter (1) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

Copyright

Ken's Story Part 1

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Introduction

Ken Maeda is from Chiba. He is thirty-four.

Yumiko Saito is from Tokyo. She is thirty-five.

Saho Mochida is from Yokohama. She is thirty-one.

Ken, Yumiko and Saho work for a large company in Tokyo. They are all very good friends with each other. They have been friends for many years. They enjoy working together, and they enjoy going to restaurants together.

Important!

This story is set in Japan. In the story, there are some Japanese words.

The Japanese words are:

1. o-miai - an introductory meeting / a formal marriage interview
2. san - Mr/Ms (E.g. Tanaka san = Mr Tanaka)
3. chan - the diminutive form of san. Used for friends, family or children (*E.g. Kitty chan, Jane chan*)
4. konkatsu - searching for a marriage partner
5. kacho - section manager
6. bucho - department manager

Chapter One

Ken is a businessman. He works for a large company in Shinjuku, Tokyo. He is a very hard worker and a very nice man. His co-workers and his boss like him very much. He joined the company ten years ago. In his section there are five workers and the section manager. Everyone is very friendly and kind. His co-workers, Yumiko and Saho, are his best friends. They talk about many things. He likes Yumiko and Saho very much.

Ken works from Monday to Friday. Every day, he goes to work by train. He arrives at the office at 8:15am. He works until 7:00pm. After work, he often goes to the gym. Sometimes, he goes drinking with his co-workers. Ken enjoys his life, but there is one problem. He wants to get married, but he cannot find a marriage partner. Last year, he had three dates. He liked the women, but the women all said "No thank you!" He was

very disappointed. Then, he went to two big singles parties. He talked to many women. He gave one woman his email address, but she didn't email him.

Last weekend, Ken had a date. The woman was his friend's friend. They went to a restaurant. He had a good time. After the date, he emailed the woman.

He wrote:

---Thank you very much. I had a good time. Would you like to go for dinner next week?---

She answered:

---Sorry. I am busy next week.---

He wrote:

---Okay. Would you like to go for dinner next month?---

She answered:

---Sorry. I am busy next month.---

Ken gave up.

Ken really wants to get married. But, why don't women want to see him again?

It is Monday morning. Ken walks into the office.

"Good morning!" says Ken.

"Good morning Ken," says Yumiko. "How are you?"

"I'm not so good today Yumiko," says Ken.

"Really? What's wrong?" asks Yumiko.

"I had a date on Saturday," says Ken.

"That's great! Did you have a good time?" asks Yumiko.

"Yes, I had a good time," says Ken.

"Are you going to see the woman again?" asks Yumiko.

"No, I'm not," says Ken.

"Why not?" asks Yumiko.

"I emailed the woman yesterday, but she answered 'I'm busy!'" says Ken.

"Oh, that's too bad," says Yumiko. She looks at Ken's face. He looks so disappointed.

She is worried about him.

Saho walks into the office.

"Good morning!" says Saho with a big smile.

"Good morning Saho!" say Ken and Yumiko.

"Ken, are you okay? You look sad," says Saho.

"Ken is not okay," says Yumiko.

"Why not? What's wrong?" asks Saho,

"He had a date on Saturday, but the woman doesn't want to see him again," says Yumiko.

"Why doesn't she want to see you again Ken?" asks Saho.

"I don't know," says Ken. "I have many dates, and I go to singles parties. But, the women don't want to see me again! I don't know why!"

"It's strange," says Yumiko. "Ken, you are a very nice man. You are very friendly and kind. I don't understand."

"Yes, it's strange," says Saho.

"But I have another date on Saturday," says Ken. "The woman is from an Internet dating site."

"Really? That's good!" says Yumiko.

"Yes, but I'm very nervous and very worried," says Ken. "Women always say 'No!' when I ask to see them again."

Yumiko thinks about Ken's problem. Then, she says, "Ken, I have a good idea! We can help you!"

"Help me? How?" asks Ken.

"Where are you going to meet the woman?" asks Yumiko.

"I'm going to meet her at the Italian restaurant Casa," says Ken.

"Saho, are you busy on Saturday night?" asks Yumiko.

"No, I don't have any plans," says Saho.

"Saho, let's go to the Italian restaurant on Saturday night!" says Yumiko.

"Why?" asks Saho.

"In the restaurant we can watch Ken. We can check his manners. Then, we can give him advice. He is very nice, but women always say 'no'. That's very strange. He needs help and advice," says Yumiko.

"That's a great idea!" says Saho. "Yes, let's do that! We are like spies! We will spy on you Ken!"

"Now I feel very nervous!" says Ken. Everyone laughs.

-----END OF SAMPLE-----