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Salaryman Secrets! sample
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SALARYMAN SECRETS!

Level 2 - A1/A2 Starter (2) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

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Salaryman Secrets!
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Salaryman Secrets

Workers in Japan share their embarrassing work stories!

Salaryman is a Japanese/English word. It means "business man" or "office worker".

One

Kazu (39)

I work at a large company in Tokyo. I have a very hard job, and sometimes I have to work until 11 or 12 at night.

One night, I was working alone in the office. It was 10:00pm. I was very tired and very hungry. I wanted to go home, but I couldn't. I had a lot of work. So I went to a convenience store to buy a rice ball. I was walking to the rice ball section, when I saw the beer in the refrigerator. Of course, we cannot drink beer at work, but it was late, I was alone in the office and I was very thirsty. The beer looked delicious. So, I bought a can of beer.

I went back to the office and started eating the rice ball. I opened the can of beer and drank a little. Then, I heard a noise at the door. The door opened and my boss walked into the office! I was very surprised. I quickly put the can of beer under my desk.

He walked over to my desk and said, "I left some documents here. I need to read them before tomorrow morning."

My boss picked up the documents and put them in his bag. Then, he went home.

I looked under my desk for my can of beer. The beer was all over the floor! When my boss came to my desk I was very nervous and my foot kicked the beer can! The carpet was very wet and very smelly. I cleaned the carpet. It took ten minutes to clean. Then I finished my work and went home at 11:30pm.

The next morning, I arrived at the office at 8:20am. Some of my co-workers were already in the office. They were talking about something. I said, "What are you talking about?"

One of my co-workers said, "There is a strange smell in this office. It smells like old beer!"

I said, "Really? I can't smell anything!"

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