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Akiko and Amy Part 3 sample
NOT FOR SALE

AKIKO AND AMY PART 3

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

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Akiko and Amy Part 3
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Introduction

This is Part 3 of Akiko and Amy's Story. The story starts in the graded reader *Akiko and Amy Part 1*.

1. Akiko goes for a job interview

Akiko wanted a job. She felt bad. Her friend Amy was a writer. Amy wrote a book and a company wanted to publish it. Akiko didn't do anything.

What kind of job could I do? thought Akiko. *I am a good cook. I studied cooking. But it is difficult to get a chef's job. I want to be home at night. I want to be home on Saturdays and Sundays. If I am a chef I will have to work at night and on the weekends. Then I will not be home when Seiji is home. I love my husband. I want to spend time with him. My dream is to have my own restaurant but that is impossible.*

Seiji, Akiko's husband, works in an office downtown. One Wednesday, he didn't get home until 10:00pm. He was tired. Akiko prepared his bath. She served dinner. Seiji thought that Akiko was very quiet.

"Did you have a good day?" he asked.

"Yes. It was OK. I did some cleaning and I helped a neighbour clean the grounds around the apartments. Amy is very busy now so I didn't talk with her today," answered Akiko.

"What's wrong Akiko?" Seiji asked.

Akiko sat on the floor opposite Seiji. "I was thinking. I would like to have a job. What do you think?"

Seiji thought, *My life is very comfortable. I have a beautiful wife. She does everything very well. She is always at home when I come home. We have enough money. Someday we will buy a house and we will have children. I don't want anything to change.*

Then he looked at Akiko. She was very quiet and unhappy.

"Maybe a job is a good idea," he said. "What kind of job would you like?"

"I would like to own a restaurant," said Akiko. "But that is an impossible dream."

Seiji smiled. "I can't make your dream come true. I don't have enough money for you to buy a restaurant, but maybe I can do something to help you."

Akiko was surprised. "What can you do?"

"You make a beautiful lunch box for me every day. But other men in my office are not so lucky. They go out to eat lunch in a restaurant. There is a small restaurant near my office. Many people from my office go there for lunch. Today Wada san said that the

restaurant would be closed for a month. The man who owns the restaurant is sick. His doctor says he must rest. He has no one to cook for him so he must close the restaurant until he is well again. Tomorrow I will go and talk to the man in the restaurant. Maybe you could work there for a few weeks.”

Akiko smiled. “Seiji you are a wonderful husband,” she said.

The next day Seiji went to see the man in the restaurant. His name was Kimura.

Seiji said to Mr Kimura, “My wife is a very good cook. She went to cooking school. She would like to work. If you can pay her a little money, she will come and cook in your restaurant at lunchtime. You can take a rest.”

Mr Kimura looked very tired. “Maybe that’s a good idea,” he said. “Please ask your wife to come to see me.”

Akiko went to see Mr Kimura at 10.30am. Mr Kimura and Akiko sat in the kitchen. Mr Kimura asked her many questions. “Can you cook everything on my menu?” he asked.

Akiko looked at the menu. The menu was very short. If you went to Mr Kimura’s restaurant you could have curry and rice, or noodles. There were two different kinds of curry. There were four different kinds of noodles.

“I can cook these,” she said.

“Can you take orders, cook, take money and clean?” asked Mr Kimura. “This is a small, cheap restaurant. I do everything alone.”

“If I watch you working, I will know how to do all the jobs in this restaurant by myself,” answered Akiko.

“Hmm. I don’t know,” said Mr Kimura. “You are young and pretty. I don’t think you know how to work hard.”

Akiko was upset. “Please! Let me watch you today. Then I can come tomorrow and help you. You don’t have to pay me.”

Mr Kimura was very ill. He felt very tired. He wanted to take a rest but he didn’t believe Akiko would work hard.

“I don’t think so,” he said. “I’m sorry but you are not a good type of person for this restaurant. It is 11 o’clock. I must start cooking for the people who will come for lunch. Please leave now.”

Akiko bowed. “I understand. Thank you for talking to me.”

Akiko walked out of the kitchen into the restaurant. She was crying. She opened the door of the restaurant. Suddenly she heard a shout and a loud noise from the kitchen. Akiko went back into the kitchen. Mr Kimura was lying on the floor. His eyes were closed. Akiko took out her mobile phone and called the ambulance.

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