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Christmas Tales sample
NOT FOR SALE

CHRISTMAS TALES

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

Copyright

Christmas Tales

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Introduction

In this book there are five short Christmas stories for learners of English.

Story 1: Two Slices of Christmas Cake

Story 2: A Makeover for Christmas

Story 3: Secret Santa

Story 4: The Gingerbread Lady

Story 5: A Christmas Present for Timmy

1. Two Slices of Christmas Cake

Kenta Kinoshita was a university student in Tokyo. He was in the first grade. It was his first year away from his family. His family lived very far away, in Sapporo, Hokkaido.

Our story starts just before Christmas, on 24th December.

Kenta was looking at a poster in the student cafeteria.

---Student Christmas Party!! Sunday, 26th December at 7:00pm!---

Kenta's friend, Yoshi, saw him.

"Hey, Kenta! Are you going to the Christmas party?" asked Yoshi.

"I don't know," said Kenta.

Kenta wanted to go to the party, but there was a problem. He didn't have a girlfriend.

"Everyone is going to the party," said Yoshi. "I'm going with Yuka, Hiroshi is going with Asaka, and Gary is going with Chiemi."

"I see," said Kenta. "I'll think about it."

All my friends have girlfriends, he thought. If I go to the party, I will be alone.

After lunch, Kenta went to class. It was a small seminar and there were only five students. They were all talking about the party. Only one student wasn't talking about the party. That was Sarah, the student from Canada.

Maybe she's not interested in the party, thought Kenta. But she doesn't speak Japanese very well. So she doesn't talk to the other students much. Christmas is a happy time, but she doesn't look happy.

That night, Kenta went back to his student apartment. His apartment was on the university campus. He looked out of the window. It was snowing. He could see students outside. Some of them were having a snowball fight. Two girls were shouting, "Merry Christmas!"

Yes, Merry Christmas, thought Kenta. It's Christmas tomorrow. What shall I do?

Every Christmas, Kenta's mother baked a strawberry and cream cake for Christmas. *I wish I was home in Sapporo, he thought. I want to eat my mother's strawberry and cream cake.*

Kenta got into bed.

I'll go to the cake shop tomorrow. I'll buy a piece of cake for myself. Just for me, he thought. Then, he fell asleep.

The next evening, at about 6:00pm, Kenta finished studying in the library, and went to a cake shop in central Tokyo. There was a long line of people outside. He stood in the line and waited.

At last, he was near the front of the line. The people in front of him were ordering some cake.

"Two slices of strawberry cake please," said a man.

"Two slices of strawberry and cream tart please," said a woman.

Everyone is ordering two slices of cake, thought Kenta. Everyone has a partner. I have to ask for just one slice. Cake for one person. I feel ashamed.

"Yes sir? What would you like?" said the woman behind the counter.

"Er...one slice of strawberry and cream cake, please," said Kenta quietly.

"Pardon?" said the woman. "I'm sorry, I didn't hear you. Could you say that again please?"

Kenta felt his face turn red. People were looking at him.

----END OF SAMPLE----