THE TWO LOVERS

A Series of Interactive Stories

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be verbs and there is/are
present tense
want/have/need/try/intend/start/begin/continue/plan/decide/like to
adjective plus infinitive
can/be able to and should
present perfect
present continuous
future going to
future “will” and “would” conditionals
gerund
looks/sounds/smells/tastes PLUS adjective
comparatives
looks/sounds/smells/feels/tastes like PLUS NOUN
none/one/a couple/a few/some/a lot/most/almost all/all of them
1. THE YOUNG JAPANESE KOREAN MAN
("be" verbs /"there is/are")

A young Japanese guy is on a bus. Is it a big bus? Is it new or old? The bus goes to a university in Japan. Is it an expensive university? The guy is Japanese but he is not the same as the other Japanese. His ancestors are Korean. Are your ancestors Korean?

The guy is from Osaka. His mother is from Osaka. His father is from Osaka. One grandmother is from Osaka. One grandfather is from Osaka. The other grandmother is from Seoul. The other grandfather is from Pyongyang. Where is Pyongyang? Where is Seoul? Is Seoul near Pyongyang? Is there a war in Pyongyang? Is there a war in Osaka?

The young Japanese university student lives in Japan. He studies in Japan. He does not know Korea. He only knows Japan. How many people are there in Japan? How many people are there in Korea?

Ninety-nine per cent of the population of Japan is Japanese. One per cent of the population of Japan has Korean ancestors. What percentage of the population of the United States is Afro-American? What percentage of the population of the United States is Asian American?

The young guy goes to class. After class he goes to the immigration office. What floor is it on? He gets a visa for Japan. He comes from Osaka but he does not have a Japanese passport. He has a Korean passport. How much is his visa? What color is his passport? He has a foreign residents’ registration card. Is there a fingerprint on his foreign residents’ registration card?

That afternoon the young guy goes home. He talks to his grandfather. His grandfather is from Pyongyang. He was a slave in World War Two. He was a slave for the Japanese Government.

How old is he now? Is he healthy? Is his hair grey? Are his teeth good? Are his arms strong? Is he a kind man? Are his eyes clear? Is his blood red? Is his heart open?

The grandson is a good student. Are his marks ok? Is he good-looking? Is he bitter?
2. THE PART-TIME JOB (present tense)

It is a warm night in Kyoto. A young university student is at a bar. He works there. He plays the piano. How many nights a week does he work there? The bar is crowded. How many people are there in the bar? Is it noisy? The piano player is Japanese-Korean. He is from Osaka but he does not have a Japanese passport. Why doesn’t he have a Japanese passport?

The bar is a jazz bar. There is another student there. She works there too. She is a singer. Does she like Aretha Franklin? What does she think of Ella Fitzgerald? Is she a good singer? How much does she earn per hour? How much does the piano player earn?

The singer and the piano player are friends. They are both students at the same university. The singer is from a really rich Japanese family. She does not need a part-time job. She works in the bar for fun. How many nights a week does she work there?

The piano player is not from a rich family. He works in the bar for money but he enjoys it. Does he play guitar too? The piano player is very clever. He does not pay university tuition fees. He has a scholarship. Actually he has two scholarships. One scholarship is academic and the other one is for baseball. Is he a batter or a pitcher? Does he play other sports too?

The young Japanese-Korean piano player really loves the young Japanese jazz singer. He really loves her and she really loves him. Do they argue sometimes? They talk a lot together and they laugh a lot together. Sometimes they study together. He tells her everything and she tells him everything. They have no secrets from each other. Do you have any secrets? Does everybody have secrets?

On Sunday the guy plays baseball. Do you play baseball? Sometimes the woman watches him. Do you watch baseball? Do you watch it on television or live? The woman lives in a big house in Kyoto. She lives with her family. Does she have a dog? What kind of car does she have? The guy lives in a small apartment near his university. Where is his university?
3. AFTER GRADUATION (verb plus infinitive)
(want/have/need/try/intend/start/begin/continue/plan/decide/like)

After four years at university a class of students graduates. There are a lot of them. Two of them are lovers. The guy is a Japanese Korean. He is a history graduate. He is really intelligent and he is a great sportsman. He wants to be a teacher. He wants to teach at a high school. Does he want to teach history? Does he want to teach at an elementary school and a university too?

The young woman is a media studies graduate. Does she intend to work for a TV station? The woman decides to study more. She decides to study overseas. She starts to research foreign universities on the internet. Does she plan to study in America or Europe? Does she need to get a visa to go to America? Does she try to get a job at NHK? What does NHK stand for? How long does she plan to stay overseas? Does she try to get in to Harvard?

The guy wants to be a teacher but he can’t be a teacher. He tries to get a job but he can’t. Why can’t he be a teacher? He is a very good baseball player. He gets a position on a famous baseball team in Osaka. What is the name of the team? The guy becomes famous in Japan. He decides to make a lot of money as a professional baseball player. Does he continue to study history? Does he still want to be a teacher? Why can’t Japanese Koreans be teachers in Japan? Why can’t Japanese Koreans be policemen in Japan? Sometimes the woman goes to the guy’s house but the guy never goes to the woman’s house. Her father does not like Koreans. Does the guy intend to marry the woman? Does she plan to marry him? Does she have to get permission from her father to marry? Do they continue to play music together?

Finally the woman gets a place at Berkley. Where is Berkley? She moves to California in August and she starts to study in October. Does the guy continue to play baseball? Does he plan to follow his girlfriend to America? At first the woman decides to break up with him but then she starts to miss him a lot. They email and phone every day. He plans to visit. When does he intend to arrive? How does he plan to get there?
A young professional baseball player is in his room. He is thinking about his girlfriend. He is writing a poem. Is it difficult to write a poem? Is it difficult to become a professional baseball player? The young guy really misses his girlfriend. He phones her. Is it expensive to call America? How much does it cost? The next day is the last game of the season. Is his team likely to win?

The next day the guy plays the last game of the season. Does he hit any home runs? Does his team win? After the game he celebrates with his teammates. They drink a lot. Is it normal to drink a lot after the last game? What do they drink?

The following day the guy goes to a travel agent. He books a ticket to California. He pays two hundred thousand yen. Is it normal to pay that much? Is it hard to get a seat? Is it possible to take a boat to the States? Is it necessary to get a visa?

The guy is from Japan and he plays on a Japanese baseball team but he does not have a Japanese passport. Is it possible for him to get a Japanese passport?

Meanwhile in California the woman is waiting for him. Is it expensive to study at Berkley? Is it fun to live in California? Is it interesting to live there? She is sitting on her balcony and she is singing and she is thinking about him. Is it relaxing to sing? Is it possible to make money as a jazz singer in Berkley? Is it necessary to have a work visa? Is it hard to get one? Berkley is near San Francisco. Is it safe to live in San Francisco? Is it interesting?

Finally the guy arrives in San Francisco. His girlfriend meets him at the airport. She is driving a Porsche. Is it normal for her to drive a Porsche? The two lovers drive out to the countryside. Is it dangerous to drive on the right-hand side of the road? They visit some wineries. Is it free to taste the wine? They stay in a small hotel. Is it nice to be there? It is nice to be together?

The two lovers talk a lot. What do they talk about? They tell jokes and they laugh and they sing together. Do they cry together too? The guy shows her his poetry.
5. THE FAMILY PROBLEM (can/be able to/should)

Two young lovers are in California. They are rich and they are happy and they are together but they cannot stay together. The woman wants to marry the man but she cannot. She loves him very much but she loves her father too. Her father does not like Koreans. Should her father respect her choice of husband? Should a man choose his daughter’s husband? Her father does not want her to marry a Korean. Should she obey her father? Should she follow her heart? Should all people accept each other as they are?

There is a piano in the hotel. The Korean guy is able to play jazz piano really well. He sits down at the piano. He starts to play. He is really good. Is it hard to play jazz piano? The woman sings. Is it difficult to sing jazz? Another guest at the hotel is a rich record producer. He listens to the music. He loves it. He offers the young couple a contract. A week later they go to a recording studio. They record an album. Is the producer able to play piano? Can he sing?

The two lovers go back to Berkley. They stay in the woman’s apartment. What floor is it on? Is there a piano in the apartment? Does it have a washing machine? Is the woman able to see the ocean from her balcony? Every day the woman goes to school. The guy walks the streets of San Francisco. Is it safe to walk around in San Francisco? The guy goes to a lot of bookshops. Is he able to read books in English? He writes poetry in Japanese. Does he write poetry in English? Is he able to understand poetry in English? Is it difficult to understand poetry?

The woman’s parents come to visit. The woman wants to hide her boyfriend. Does he want to hide? Should she be honest to her parents? She asks the guy to check into a hotel for ten days. Is he able to find a nice room? Should the woman introduce her boyfriend to her parents? The guy is angry at his girlfriend. He drinks a lot. Do they argue? He returns to Japan. The woman really misses him. She feels very sad. Is she able to contact him? Should he forgive her? Should she talk to her mother about her problem?
A young Korean Japanese guy is at home. He is with his family. How long has he lived with them? He has been back in Japan for two weeks. Has he called his girlfriend in America? Has he visited his old school friends? Has he contacted his baseball friends?

The guy speaks Japanese perfectly and eats Japanese food and has played on a famous Japanese baseball team but people do not accept him. He is not really Japanese. The guy feels bad. He starts to drink a lot. He drinks shochu. Has he ever drunk it before? One day he packs a small bag and he walks out of the house. He starts to hitchhike. Has he ever hitchhiked before? Have you? He hitchhikes to Tokyo. Has he ever been there before?

In Tokyo the guy goes to a bar. He gets drunk. He meets a homeless man. He talks to the homeless man. Has he ever met a homeless person before? Have you? That night he sleeps by the river. Has he ever slept by the river before? Have you? The next day he leaves Tokyo. He hitchhikes north. A red sports car stops. A beautiful woman opens the door. The guy gets in. What kind of car is it? Has the guy ever been in that kind of car before?

The woman is very sexy. She knows the guy from TV. She is a baseball fan. Has she ever seen him play?

The woman is from Tohoku. She works in Tokyo. How long has she lived in Tokyo? Has she ever been overseas? She wants to visit her family in Tohoku. She comes from a small village. What is the name of the village? The red car drives north. The baseball player looks out the window. The fields are beautiful. Has he ever worked in the fields? He thinks about his girlfriend in California. He looks at the Tohoku woman’s legs. The woman talks about poetry. She likes poetry and history.

Meanwhile in California a Japanese woman is alone in her apartment. She misses her boyfriend. Has she called him recently? Has he called her? Her parents are in Japan. Has she told her parents about her boyfriend?
7. THE JOURNEY TO THE NORTH (present continuous tense)

A beautiful young Japanese woman is sitting in her apartment. She is living in California. She is crying. Is she thinking about her boyfriend? What is she wearing?

The woman goes out on to the balcony. Is she able to see the ocean from her balcony? Does she have any pot-plants on her balcony? She drinks a glass of wine. She goes in to her bedroom. There is a computer on the table. Is it a Mac or a PC? She sends an email to her boyfriend. They have had a fight. He is living in Japan but she is living in California. She wants to see him. She wants to hear his voice. She wants to see his face. She wants to feel his touch. Is he thinking about her too? Is he missing her?

Meanwhile in north Japan the guy is in a red car. The car is speeding towards Tohoku. A beautiful woman is driving. Is she wearing a mini-skirt? Is she wearing perfume? The guy is looking out the window. What is he looking at? The woman is talking. What is she talking about?

The guy feels bad. He is Korean Japanese. He has experienced racial discrimination. Have you ever experience racial discrimination? He is going through a long dark tunnel. Has he ever gone through a long dark tunnel before? Have you?

The woman in the red car takes the guy to her house. She meets his father. Can the father tell that the young guy is Korean? The guy stays at the house in Tohoku for three days. He works in the fields. Has he ever done that before? Three days later the woman goes back to Tokyo. The guy hitchhikes north. On the first night he sleeps outside. The next day he crosses to Hokkaido. In Sapporo he goes to a bar. He meets a Russian. Is the Russian working in Japan? Does he come from Sakhalin? What is he drinking? The Russian and the Japanese guy talk about the trans-Siberian Railway. The Japanese guy decides to catch a train to Europe. There are some other people in the bar. What are they talking about? What are they drinking? What language are they speaking? What are they wearing?
8. PARIS (future “going to”)

It is a beautiful day in Paris. Is it going to rain? A young Japanese woman is walking through the street. She is going to a café. She is going to eat lunch. How long is she going to take for lunch? She is working for a Japanese television company. They are making a program about French fashion. When is it going to be on? She has just graduated from UCLA Berkley. She has a master’s degree in media studies. Is she going to do her PhD? She is the director’s assistant for this film project. This is her first big project. How much are they going to pay her? How much is it going to cost to make the film?

The woman finds a nice café in St Germain. Does she sit inside or on the sidewalk? She looks at the menu. There is fois grois on the menu. Is she going to order it? There are frogs’ legs on the menu too. Is she going to order them? A handsome French guy is sitting at the next table. Is he wearing a beret? Is he smoking a Gaulois? Is he a famous philosopher? The guy hits on the woman. What does she think of him? Is she going to give him her number?

After lunch the woman walks back to work. On this day she is working in a designer’s studio. They are shooting film of him at work. Are they going to shoot there again tomorrow too?

The woman passes a little studio. She looks in. There is a Japanese guy in the studio. He is doing calligraphy? He is going to sell it. Which character is he painting? How much is he going to charge for this one? The guy is the woman’s old boyfriend. She sees him. He sees her. They stare at each other. He loves her and she loves him. Do they kiss?

The woman enters the studio. She sits down. There is a piano in the corner. The guy starts to play. The woman sings. They play and sing for an hour without stopping. The woman forgets about her job. She forgets about everything. Later she rushes to work. She is late. The director is going to be angry. Is he going to fire her? Is she going to see her old lover again? Is she going to marry him? Are they going to go back to Japan? Is she going to introduce him to her father? Are they going to live happily ever after?
9. THE WEDDING PLANS
(future “will” and “would” conditional)

A Japanese woman and her boyfriend are staying in a small apartment in Paris. The guy is selling calligraphy. The woman is working for a television station. She is going to go back to Japan soon. When will she go back? Would you go back or stay in Paris?

The woman is going to tell her father about her boyfriend. Would you tell him? Is her father going to accept her boyfriend? Would you accept him? The woman is going to marry the guy. Would you marry a Korean? When are they going to get married? Is the woman going to wear a white dress or a kimono? What would you wear? Is the guy going to wear a suit or a kimono and hakama? What would you wear?

Meanwhile in Japan the woman’s father is talking to another young man. He is from a very old Kyoto family. His family is very rich. The father is going to introduce the young man to his daughter. Are they going to meet in a restaurant? Would you meet in a restaurant or at the father’s house? The rich guy is going to propose. There is going to be an arranged marriage. Would you have an arranged marriage? Will the young woman marry the rich guy? Would marry him? Is there going to be an argument? Is there going to be trouble?

The woman comes back to Japan. She sees her father. She is going to tell him about her boyfriend but he tells her about the wedding plans first. Would you obey your father in this situation?

The rich guy is going to come to the house the next day. What time is he going to arrive? He is going to meet the woman. Is he going to bring a present? Will he wear a suit? Would you wear a suit? Would you wear a tie?

The next day the rich guy comes. He meets the woman. He likes her and she likes him a little but not much. They go to a coffee shop. Later they go to a restaurant. After that they go to a bar. They have fun. The rich guy is a nice guy. The woman is going to see him again. Is she going to see him the next day? Will she tell her boyfriend about the other guy? Would you tell him?
10. THE RETURN TO JAPAN (gerunds)

It is a warm day in Osaka. A plane is circling Kansai International Airport. It is going to land. Is flying safe? Is flying into Kansai airport convenient? The guy takes the train from the airport to his house? Is taking the train expensive?

The guy has been in Paris. Is living in Paris expensive? Is it interesting? Is it good to be back in Japan? The guy can speak French and English and Japanese. Is speaking French hard? Is he able to speak Korean too? Is learning Korean easy for Japanese people? His music is famous in America. Is making money hard for musicians? His poetry is famous in Japan. Is making money from poetry difficult? He is also a famous baseball player. Is being a famous baseball player difficult?

The guy is going to marry his girlfriend. He calls her from the train. Would you call her from the train? Is talking on the phone on the train rude? She does not answer her phone. She is on a date with a rich guy from Kyoto. Is dating fun? Is dating two guys at the same time bad? The woman tells the rich guy about the Korean guy. She rich guy wants to marry her but she does not want to marry him. She wants to marry the Korean guy. Is marrying a Korean ok?

The rich guy is very angry. He goes to the Korean guy’s house. He invites the Korean to a bar. They drink together. The rich guy warns the Korean to stay away from the woman. The rich guy drinks a lot. He cannot drive. He is too drunk. Is drink-driving dangerous? Is it illegal? The Korean guy only drinks tea. He drives the rich guy home then he takes the train back to Osaka. Is taking the Hankyu faster than taking the Keihan?

Later the rich guy gets in his car. It is a fast sports car. He drives too fast. Is driving fast fun? Is it safe? He hits an elementary school student. He does not stop. He drives off. He parks the car in Osaka. He takes the train home. He calls the police. He says somebody stole his car. The police find the car. The Korean guy’s fingerprints are on the wheel. The police arrest him.
A handsome, talented young Korean Japanese guy is in prison. A rich young Kyoto guy has hit an elementary school student with his car. The Korean guy’s fingerprints are on the car. The police think the Korean is a car thief. They think he is a criminal. How does he feel? How does the prison food taste?

The Korean guy’s mother visits him in prison. How does he look? She gives him some pickled cabbage. Does it taste good? Does it smell good? He holds his mother’s hand. Does it feel soft?

In prison the guy dreams about his girlfriend. In his dream he kisses her. Do her lips feel soft? Does he hair smell good? In his dream he is playing the piano. Does the music sound good? The woman is singing in the dream. Does her voice sound good?

A month later the Korean guy goes to court. He is in the back of a police car. There is a car accident. The Korean guy gets out of the car. He runs away. He hides under a bridge. He meets a homeless man. Is the man Korean? How does he smell? He gives the escaped prisoner some food. How does it taste? The guy has been in prison for a month. He is happy to be free. He walks by the river. He smells the flowers. How do they smell? He listens to the sound of the water. How does it sound? He listens to the songs of the birds. How do they sound?

The guy lives under a bridge by the river for a month. Then he contacts an old baseball friend. The friend has a boat. It is a yacht. Does it look safe? He takes the guy to Hong Kong. Does Chinese sound nice? Does Cantonese food taste good? In Hong Kong he buys a fake passport. Does it look real? Does it cost much? He checks in to a hotel. Does the room look nice? He turns on the news. His old girlfriend is on TV. How does she look? He wants to see her. He wants to touch her. He wants to hear her voice. She is in Hong Kong. She is working on a television program about Japanese restaurants in Hong Kong.

The guy goes to the studio. He wears a disguise. He waits and he watches. Suddenly he sees her. She looks wonderful. She looks really, really, really beautiful. The guy longs for her.
12. SYDNEY (comparatives)

A beautiful young television personality is working in Sydney. Is working in Sydney fun? Is working in Sydney more fun than working in Osaka? She is making a program about koalas. Are koalas tastier than kangaroos? Are koalas dangerous?

The woman is married but she does not love her husband. Her husband drinks a lot and he beats her. Is beating your wife illegal? Is being married better than being single?

The woman really misses her old boyfriend. She misses his voice. Is his voice more beautiful than her husband’s voice? She misses his laughter. Is his laughter more melodious than her husband’s laughter? She misses his touch. Is his touch softer than her husband’s touch? She misses his face. Is his face more handsome than her husband’s face? How does the old boyfriend compare to the husband?

After work the woman goes back to her hotel. How does her hotel room in Sydney compare to her apartment in Osaka? She is very sad and she is very, very, very lonely. She drinks half a bottle of wine. Is drinking red wine healthy? Is drinking white wine healthy? Is drinking red wine healthier than drinking white wine? She sits on the balcony. She thinks about suicide. Is committing suicide more cowardly than facing up to your problems? Is dying easier than living? Is living more important than dying?

The woman goes inside. She looks at her laptop. Is it a Macintosh or a PC? Which is better, windows or Mac? She checks her email. Does she use hotmail or yahoo? Which is better, hotmail or yahoo? There is a message in her inbox. It is from an old friend. It is from her old boyfriend. He is an escaped prisoner. The police are looking for him. He cannot return to Japan.

The woman emails her old lover. She wants to meet him. He is in Bangkok. How does Bangkok compare to Sydney? How does Bangkok compare to Osaka? Is the woman going to fly to Bangkok? Is she going to meet her old lover? Is she going to divorce her husband? Is getting divorced better than living in a marriage without love?
13. THE LAPTOP (look, smell, sound, feel taste LIKE plus noun)

Two lovers are in Bangkok. What does Bangkok look like? They are in a very expensive hotel. It looks like a palace. They are in bed together. They are talking. They have a plan. The woman explains the plan. Does it sound good? There is some strange tropical fruit in a bowl on the table. What does it look like? What does it smell like? What does it taste like?

The woman goes back to Japan. She drinks with her husband. He talks a lot. She has sound recording software on her laptop. Is it audacity? What does the icon look like? She turns it on.

The woman talks about her old boyfriend. The husband laughs. How does his laugh sound? He talks about the car accident. He talks about the Korean guy. He talks about the set-up. The woman records the conversation. What does the laptop look like?

There is music on in the background. Who does it sound like? There is some food in a bowl on the table. What does it look like? The husband is drinking something. What does it look like? What does it taste like?

Later the woman goes to the police station. The policeman is drinking something. What does it smell like? What does it look like? Does it taste good? The woman plays the recording. The policeman listens. A week later the police arrest the husband. A month later the Korean guy returns to Japan. He brings his girlfriend a present. It is a surprise. He wraps it up. He gives it to her. She feels the parcel. What does it feel like? She shakes it. What does it sound like? She smells it. What does it smell like? What is it?

The Japanese Korean guy still wants to be a history teacher. Should he give up his dream? Is the woman going to get a divorce? Is she going to marry the Korean guy? The two lovers decide to take a vacation. They buy a yacht. They sail off into the Pacific Ocean. They stand on the deck of the yacht at sunset. The guy opens a bottle of something. What does it look like? He gives the woman a small gift. It looks like a ring. She opens it. Is it a ring?