NURSE STORY

(A series of interactive stories by Mark White, 2004)

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1. THE NEW JOB (“be” verb)

A young woman is at a big hospital. She is a nurse. What colour is her uniform? What colour are her shoes? The nurse is tired. Is she hungry? She looks at her watch. Is it an expensive watch? It is night. What time is it?

The nurse goes into a room. There are eight patients in the room. The nurse looks at the patients. She sees an old woman. The woman is a patient. She is very old. How old is she? Is her hair white?

The old woman is sad. The young nurse talks to the old woman. The old woman likes the young nurse. She feels better. She feels happy. The old woman talks about her family. Is her husband still alive?

The young nurse is a new nurse. This is her new job. It is her first job. She looks at her watch again. It is late. She goes home.

The young nurse lives in a small apartment. Is it on the fourth floor? She lives with a friend. The friend is not home. The young nurse goes into the kitchen. She looks in the fridge. What colour is the fridge? Is it big? What brand is it?

There are some eggs in the fridge. The young nurse cooks an omelette. She eats it. Is it good? She makes tea. What kind of tea is it? She drinks it. Is it nice?

The nurse goes to the bathroom. She takes off her clothes. She takes a shower. Is the water hot? After she takes a shower, she dries herself then she puts on her pyjamas. Are they green? Are they warm?

The nurse looks in the mirror. Is it a big mirror? She looks at her face. She looks at her skin. Her skin is not clear. She has pimples. What colour are her pimples? She is not pretty. She does not have a boyfriend. She is not happy. She is lonely.

The nurse goes to bed. Is her bed big? There is a computer in her bedroom. Is it a Macintosh?

The nurse thinks about her life. She thinks about the old lady. She goes to sleep. She dreams. Is it a good dream? What is it about?

The next morning, it is a holiday. The nurse goes shopping. She goes into a big department store. What is the name of the department store? Is it expensive?

The nurse goes to the clothing section. She tries on a new dress. Is it a short dress or a long dress? How much is it? What colour is it? The nurse buys the dress.

Outside in the street, the nurse sees a young guy. He is very handsome. She looks at him but he does not look at her. How old is he? Is he intelligent? Is he a nice guy? Is he interesting?
2. THE RESTAURANT (there is/there are)

It is dinnertime. There is a young nurse in the street. She has a new dress on. Is it pretty? What colour is it? The nurse is alone. She is waiting for her friends. Her friends come. There are three of them.

The four friends go into a restaurant. They sit down. How many tables are there in the restaurant? Is it an Italian restaurant? Is it cheap? Is it busy? How many customers are there in the restaurant?

A waiter comes over to the four friends. He is very handsome. What colour is his shirt? What colour are his trousers? How many waiters are there in the restaurant? How many chefs are there?

The four friends order food and wine. Is the wine red or white? Is it French wine? The wine comes. The friends drink wine and wait for their food. The food comes. How many dishes are there? Is there salt and pepper on the table? Is there any soy sauce?

The four friends sit in the restaurant for a long time. They drink a lot and they talk a lot. Two of the friends are nurses. One of the friends is a shop assistant. The other one is a student.

The shop assistant works in a flower shop. Is her pay good? Is her house near her workplace? She lives with her family. How many people are there in her family?

The student lives alone. Is she lonely? She comes from another city. How many people are there in her family? She studies history. How many people are there in her class?

After dinner the nurse with the pimples goes home. She takes the bus. How many seats are there on the bus? How many people are there on the bus? The nurse sits down. She looks out the window. She sees a handsome young man. It is the same man. He looks at the bus. He sees the nurse. He smiles at her. She wants to smile at him but she does not because she is shy. Is she excited?

In her apartment, the young nurse with the pimples goes into the kitchen. She opens the fridge. Is there any water in the fridge? Is there any wine? Are there any oranges? She drinks a glass of juice. Is it apple juice?

In her room, the young nurse checks her email. Are there any messages? She sends a message to her mother. How many people are there in her family?

She takes a shower then she goes to bed. She thinks about the handsome young guy in the street. She thinks about the old lady in the hospital. She thinks about her life.

Suddenly she hears a sound. It is her share-mate. She is home. She is drunk. She comes in to the nurse’s room. She talks about her boyfriend. Is there a drink in her hand? Are there any pimples on her face?
3. THE PHONE NUMBER (present simple tense)

It is early in the morning. A young nurse wakes up. Does she feel good? She goes into the bathroom. She puts on her make-up. There is a big pimple on her nose. Are there any pimples on her cheeks?

She puts on her clothes and she goes to work. Does she take a shower? Does she eat breakfast? She takes the bus. What is the number of the bus? How many people are there on the bus? How long does it take to get from the nurse’s apartment to the hospital?

At work, the nurse puts on her uniform. She looks in the mirror. She looks at the big pimple on her nose. How does she feel?

The nurse starts work. There is a new doctor in the hospital. He is very handsome. Does he have a girlfriend? Is he tall? The nurse looks at him. Does he look at her?

The young nurse goes into a room. The old lady is in the room. She is sad and lonely. Does she miss her family? The nurse talks to her. Do they talk about the old lady’s family? Do they talk about the young nurse’s life? Do they talk about love and marriage?

The old lady gives the young nurse a gift. It is a necklace. Is it beautiful? Why does the old lady give the young nurse the necklace?

The nurse goes into another room. How many patients are there in that room? She sees a child. Does he have a broken leg? The little boy is sad. The nurse talks to him. What do they talk about?

After work the nurse goes home. She sits on the bus. She looks out the window. She sees a handsome guy in the street. It is the same guy. Does he look at her? The bus stops. The young guy gets on. He sits next to the young nurse. He smiles at her. Does she smile at him? Is she shy? The guy talks to the nurse. What does he say? What does she say?

At home, the nurse thinks about the guy on the bus. Her share-mate comes home. She is sad. There is a bruise on her face. She talks about her boyfriend. Her boyfriend hits her. Does he hit her often? She drinks a lot. Does she drink every night? She is very sad. She cries a lot. The other nurse comforts her. Does she cry too? Do they call the police?

The next day the young nurse with the pimples goes to work. She takes the bus. Is the bus late? The same young guy is on the bus. He talks to the young nurse again. What do they talk about? He asks for her phone number. Does she have a mobile phone? She gives him her phone number. What is her phone number? Does the nurse get the handsome guy’s phone number?
4. THE OLD LADY (present continuous tense)

It is night-time. A young nurse is sitting in her room. She is looking in the mirror. What is she wearing? There are pimples on her face. Is her hair long? Is she thinking about the handsome guy from the bus?

The phone rings. It is the handsome young guy from the bus. He wants to meet up with the nurse. He is at a public phone box. Is he sitting down or standing up? Is he wearing a suit?

The nurse talks to him. How long do they talk for? They make a date. The nurse goes to bed. Does she take a shower? Does she check her email?

The next day the nurse gets up. She goes to the bus stop. There is an old man at the bus stop. He is playing the violin. Is he wearing a hat? Is he wearing clean clothes? Does he smell bad? Is he poor? Is he bald?

The bus comes. The young nurse with the pimples gets on. There are ten people on the bus. There are eight schoolboys at the back. Are they smoking cigarettes? There is a middle-aged man at the front. Is he reading? What is he wearing? There is a middle-aged woman in the middle. Is she wearing nice clothes? She is reading a book. What kind of book is she reading?

The nurse arrives at work. She puts on her uniform. There is another nurse in the change room. What is she doing?

The nurse with the pimples goes into a room. She looks for the old lady. The old lady is not there. The old lady is dead. A young woman is there. She is the old lady’s daughter. Her mother is dead. Is she crying? What is she wearing?

The young nurse with the pimples is wearing a gold necklace from the old lady. Does the nurse tell the daughter about the gold necklace? Does she comfort the daughter?

The nurse goes to another room. She feels very sad. She sees a young child. The young child smiles at her. Does she feel happy?

After work the nurse goes home. She feels tired and a little sad. Her share-mate is at home. What is she wearing? How is she feeling? The nurse with the pimples talks to her. Does she tell her about the old lady? Does she tell her about the gold necklace?

The share mate goes to bed. The young nurse with the pimples goes to the bathroom. She looks in the mirror. Her hair is nice but there are pimples on her face. Does she wash her face? Does she worry? Tomorrow she has a date. Where is the guy now? What is he doing? Suddenly the phone rings……
5. **THE DATE (future “going to”)**

It is morning. A young nurse wakes up. What time is it? Is it raining? The nurse has a date tonight. She is going to meet a young guy and they are going to go to a restaurant. What time are they going to meet? Are they going to go to a French restaurant?

It is a workday. The young nurse eats breakfast. What time is she going to catch the bus? What time is she going to start work? How long does it take to get from her apartment to the hospital?

At the bus stop, the nurse sees an old man. He is playing a violin. She gives him some money. How much does she give him? What is he going to do with the money?

The bus comes. There is a woman with one leg on the bus. Where is she going? What is she going to do today? There is also a man with long hair. He is reading a book. Is he going to finish the book today? At the back of the bus there are some schoolboys. They are smoking. Are they going to die of cancer?

At work the young nurse meets a new nurse. He is a male nurse. How old is he? The young nurse eats lunch with the new male nurse. The male nurse is going to work in Africa. He is going to work at this hospital for two months and then he is going to go to Africa and he is going to get a new job. Which country is he going to go to? How long is he going to stay in Africa? Is he going to work with AIDS patients?

After lunch the young nurse goes back to work. She goes into a room. She sees a little girl. The little girl has one arm. She is in a coma. Is she going to wake up? She is very pretty. The nurse checks her drip.

In the next room, there is an old lady. She has diabetes. She is very sick. Is she going to die soon? The young nurse checks her drip too.

The handsome young doctor comes in. He is not happy today. Why is he sad? What is he going to do tonight?

After work the young nurse goes home. She takes a shower and she looks at her clothes. What is she going to wear? Is she going to wear the gold necklace from the old lady? Is she going to wear earrings? She puts on her clothes. Is she going to be a little late or a little early or on time? Is her skin clear? Is she nervous?

The share mate is in the kitchen. Is she still going out with the same boyfriend? She is not going to go out tonight. She is going to stay home. Is she going to watch TV? She drinks a lot. Does she usually drink beer or wine or whisky or what? Is she going to drink tonight? Is she going to drink too much?
6. THE HANDSOME YOUNG GUY (present perfect tense)

It is evening. A young nurse and a handsome young guy are sitting in a restaurant. The young guy is wearing a suit. What colour suit is he wearing? Is he wearing a tie? Is he wearing a long-sleeved shirt or a short-sleeved shirt? Is he wearing expensive Italian shoes? Has he ever been to this restaurant before? What is the young nurse wearing? Has she ever been to this restaurant before?

There are two people at the next table. They are very old. It is their wedding anniversary. Have they ever been here before? What are they wearing? They are talking about their children. They have three children. One of their children is a doctor. How long has he been a doctor? Their middle child is in prison. How long has she been in prison? Why is she in prison? Their other child is a teacher. What does she teach? She works in another country. How long has she worked overseas?

The young guy asks the nurse a lot of questions. Has she ever been overseas? Has she ever seen a dead person? Has she ever been in love? Has she ever smoked a cigarette? Has she ever studied a foreign language? Has she ever been in a car accident? Has she ever done karaoke? Has she ever ski-ed? Has the young guy ever done any of these things?

The waiter comes. He takes the young couple’s order. What does the nurse order? Has she ever eaten it before? What does the guy order? Has he ever had it before?

After dinner the nurse and the young guy go for walk. They walk in a park. There are ducks in the park. Has the nurse ever seen ducks in the park before? What are they doing? The young nurse and her date look at the ducks. There are two ducks. One is a male and one is a female. Has the female duck ever had ducklings?

An old man is sleeping on a bench in the park. He is homeless. He lives there. How long has he lived there? He has no money now. Has he ever been rich? Has the nurse ever seen a homeless person before?

The nurse likes the young man very much. Does he like her? Does he kiss her? They go to a small café. They drink coffee. There is nice music. Has the nurse ever heard that music before? What kind of music is it? Later the guy takes her home on a motorcycle. Has she ever ridden on the back of a motorcycle before?

The nurse goes into her apartment. She finds her share-mate. She is unconscious. Her face is white. There is a note. It is a suicide note. She has taken sleeping pills. How many pills has she taken?
7. THE AMBULANCE (“would” conditionals)

It is late at night. A young nurse is in her apartment. Her share-mate has taken an overdose. She has taken an overdose of sleeping pills. She has tried to kill herself. Has she ever tried to kill herself before? Would you try to kill yourself? The young nurse calls an ambulance. Would you call an ambulance in this situation?

The ambulance arrives. There are two paramedics. Would you work as a paramedic? Would you work as an ambulance driver? Would you enjoy a job in an ambulance?

The young nurse goes to hospital in the ambulance with her share-mate. Would you do the same thing? She waits at the hospital for a long time. Would you do that? Does she call her share-mate’s family? Would you call them?

A doctor pumps the girl’s stomach. She is okay. The young nurse goes home. She is very tired. She goes to sleep. Two hours later, she gets up. She has to go to work. Would you go to work, if you were her?

The young nurse is very tired. She catches the bus. Does she sleep on the bus? Has she ever slept on the bus before? Have you? She gets off the bus and she goes to a flower shop. She buys some flowers for her friend. Would you do the same thing? What kind of flowers does the nurse buy? What kind of flowers would you buy?

The share-mate is feeling better. The young nurse gives her the flowers. She talks to her. After that the nurse goes to another room.

There is a little girl in the room. The girl is still in a coma. She has one arm. Her mother is watching. The young nurse talks to her. Would you talk to her?

At lunchtime the young nurse eats with the new male nurse. They talk about Africa. The male nurse is going to go to Africa. Would you go to Africa? Would you work with AIDS patients? Where would you work, if you could work anywhere?

After work the young nurse goes home. She eats and then she takes a shower. What does she eat? What would you eat? She calls the handsome young guy. Would you call him? She thanks him for the meal. Would you thank him? Does she tell him about her share-mate’s overdose? Would you tell him? Does he make another date? If you were him, would you make another date? The young nurse looks in the mirror. She has no pimples. Her skin is clear. She goes to bed. Is she happy? Would you be happy, if you were her?
8. THE SHARE-MATE ("will" future)

It is late morning. A young woman is in hospital. She is very sad. She has tried to commit suicide. Will she do it again? Her friend is visiting her. Her friend is a nurse. The sad young woman lives with the nurse. They are good friends. Will they always be friends?

The young nurse talks to the sad woman then the woman’s father comes. The nurse leaves. Will she come back later? What is she going to do now?

The sad woman’s father talks to her. He wants her to come home. Will she come home? The father and his daughter go downstairs. They go for a walk in the garden. There is a gardener in the garden. He is planting flowers. The father has a garden too. Will he plant flowers in his garden this year?

The father and his daughter talk about nature. What kind of flowers does the father like? What kind of flowers does the daughter like? The daughter tells the father about her boyfriend. She is sad and she drinks a lot because her boyfriend hits her. Would you hit your girlfriend? Would you leave your boyfriend if he hit you? Will the daughter leave her boyfriend? Will the father call the police?

Meanwhile the young nurse is upstairs. She is in a room. She is with a young child. The child is in a coma. Will the child wake up? The mother of the child is there. The nurse talks to her. The mother is busy today. She is going to go to her sister’s house. Will she come back tomorrow? Will her sister come to the hospital with her next time?

The young nurse goes to lunch. She has lunch with a male nurse. He is her new friend. They look at the menu. What will the male nurse order? What will the other nurse order?

Downstairs in the garden the father is talking to his daughter. She is going to move out of her apartment. When will she move out? She is going to live with her parents again. Will she stay in her old room?

The daughter is going to move out so the young nurse will not have a share mate. The rent will be very expensive. She will not be able to afford it. She will have to get a new share mate. Will she be able to find a new share mate? How will she find a new share mate? How would you find a new share mate, if you were in that situation?

That night the nurse meets the handsome young guy. They have coffee together. What do they talk about? The nurse is tired. She goes home. Does she kiss the young guy? When will she see him again? Will he move in with her? Will he marry her? Will her pimples come back?
9. THE LITTLE GIRL (gerund, verb plus “ing”)

It is late at night. A woman is sitting by her daughter’s bed in a hospital. Is being a mother hard? Her daughter is very young. Is having young children difficult? The daughter is only ten years old. She has had a car accident. She only has one arm. She is in a coma.

A young nurse comes into the room. There is a pimple on her cheek. Is having pimples a big problem? Is being a nurse a hard job? Is working as a nurse an important job?

The nurse is doing night shift. Is doing night shift tiring? The nurse smiles at the mother. Is smiling important for a nurse?

Suddenly there is a sound. It is the little girl. She wakes up. She sees her mother. She smiles. Her mother is very happy. Her mother hugs her. The nurse watches. She feels warm inside.

The nurse goes into another room. She looks in the mirror. She looks at the pimple on her cheek. She smiles at herself. She thinks about her boyfriend. He is very handsome. She has pimples but her boyfriend does not mind.

Suddenly the nurse hears a sound. She looks around. It is a man. He is a famous actor. He is laughing. He is a patient in this hospital. He is going to have an operation. Is having an operation expensive?

The next morning the nurse goes home. She takes the bus. Is taking the bus cheap? The nurse lives alone. Is living alone lonely? Is living with your parents good?

The nurse is hungry but she does not want to cook because cooking for one person is not fun. She goes out again. She goes to a fast food place. Is eating fast food healthy? Why do people eat fast food? What does the nurse order at the fast food place? What would you order?

Thirty minutes later the nurse walks home. She goes to her apartment. She goes on to the balcony. She sits there. She looks at the city. Is sitting on the balcony relaxing? Is living in the city dangerous?

There are some pot plants on the balcony. Is growing plants fun? Is it difficult?

Suddenly there is a knock at the door. The nurse answers the door. It is the police. There are two policemen. They want to talk to the nurse. Is being a policeman a good job? One of the policemen is very good-looking. The other one is very ugly. Would you go out on a date with a policeman? Would you go out on a date with an ugly policeman?

The policemen ask the nurse a lot of questions. They ask her about a dead woman. They ask her about a gold necklace. The necklace is very valuable. The policemen look in the nurse’s bedroom. They see the necklace. Is stealing bad?
10. THE GOLD NECKLACE (comparatives, “er”)

It is lunchtime. A young nurse is at the police station. The police are asking her questions. Is the young nurse a thief? They are asking about a gold necklace. It is a very old gold necklace. It is very valuable. Is gold more valuable than silver? Is gold more expensive than platinum? Which is more expensive, a silver ring or a platinum ring?

The young nurse’s parents come to the police station. They are worried. Who is more worried, her mother or her father? Is her mother older than her father? Is her mother taller than her father? The nurse’s mother is pretty. Is she prettier than her daughter?

The nurse’s brother comes to the police station too. Later her boyfriend comes too. Who is more handsome, her brother or her boyfriend? Who is older? Who is taller? Who is more intelligent?

Everybody talks to the police. Everybody talks about the necklace. The necklace is a present from the old lady. The old lady is dead now. The young nurse is not a thief. The young nurse is not a thief but the daughter of the dead lady thinks that the nurse is a thief. Which is worse, a thief or a liar?

The daughter of the dead lady comes to the police station. Is she older than the nurse? Is she older than the nurse’s mother? Who is more intelligent, the nurse or the daughter of the dead lady? Who is kinder? Who has longer hair?

The young nurse explains everything. The police understand. They believe her. Everything is okay. The young nurse goes to a coffee shop with her parents and her boyfriend. Her brother goes home. He has to work. Where does he work? Is his salary higher than his sister’s salary? Is his job more interesting?

Do the nurse’s parents like the boyfriend? Does the boyfriend like the nurse’s parents? The nurse drinks a cup of coffee. It is a cappuccino. Her boyfriend has a café latte. Which is more expensive?

The nurse’s mother has a cup of tea. The father has a beer. Which is more expensive? Which is healthier? Which is tastier?

The four people drink and talk. After that they go home. The nurse takes a taxi to her apartment.

That afternoon she visits her share mate in hospital. How long has her share mate been in hospital? When is she going to leave the hospital? Who is taller, the young nurse or her share mate? Who is happier?

That night the young nurse meets her boyfriend in a bar. He wants to live with her. Would you live with your boyfriend?
11. THE BAD BOYFRIEND (superlatives)

It is late at night. A young nurse and her boyfriend are in a bar. How long have they been there? How many drinks has the boyfriend had? How many drinks has the nurse had? The bar is quite expensive. It is the most expensive bar in the city? Is it the best bar in the city? What is the most expensive drink? What is the cheapest drink?

The boyfriend gets drunk. He wants the nurse to live with him but she does not want to live with him. He shouts at her. She goes outside. He goes outside. They argue in the street. Is it the busiest street in town? The boyfriend hits the young nurse. She screams.

Suddenly a young doctor walks by. He is very good-looking. He works at the same hospital as the nurse. Is he the handsomest doctor at the hospital? Is he the youngest? The young handsome doctor sees the fight. He grabs the young man. The young man hits him. He ducks. Who is faster, the young handsome doctor or the drunk boyfriend?

The young doctor knows judo. He throws the boyfriend. The young nurse runs away. She gets into a taxi. She goes home. If you were her, would you go home? Would you call the police? Is it the worst night of her life?

The next day the nurse visits her old sharemate. She sees a photo of the old sharemate’s boyfriend. She has never seen a photo of him before. It is the same guy! It is her boyfriend! Her boyfriend and her sharemate’s boyfriend are the same guy! He hits her and he hits her sharemate! It is the same guy! Does she call the police? Would you call the police? Is he the worst guy in town? Is he the most dangerous?

Later at work the young nurse sees the handsome young doctor. She thanks him. They talk. What do they talk about? Is he the youngest doctor in the hospital? Who is the youngest doctor in the hospital?

The young nurse thinks about the bad boyfriend. She wants to take a holiday. She wants to take a holiday without him. She wants to go to Thailand. Is Thailand rich? What is the richest country in Asia? What is the poorest country in Asia? What is the most dangerous? What is the safest? Is Japan the most expensive?

The young nurse goes to a travel agent. Five airlines fly to Bangkok. They are Korean Airlines, Thai Airlines, Japan Airlines, Malaysian airlines and Singapore Airlines. Which company has the most planes? Which one has the newest planes? Which one has the biggest planes? Does Japan Airlines have the biggest planes? She buys a plane ticket. Which ticket is the cheapest? Does she buy the cheapest? Would you buy the cheapest?
A young Japanese nurse is on a plane. Have you ever been on a plane? The nurse is going to Thailand. Have you ever been to Thailand? Where have you been in Japan? The young nurse reads a magazine. What kind of magazine is it? She looks out the window.

There is a young guy on the plane next to the nurse. He is from New Zealand. He is eating and drinking. What is he eating? What is he drinking? Has he been to Thailand before? The young guy talks to the nurse. He asks her questions. What questions does he ask? They talk about New Zealand? Is New Zealand bigger than Japan? The Kiwi guy is going to take a vacation in New Zealand. What is he going to do after that? Tell me all about him.

The plane lands at the airport in Bangkok. The nurse shares a taxi with the Kiwi. They go to Khao Sarn Road. There are lots of cheap hotels in Khao Sarn Road. How much does one night cost?

The next day the two travellers decide to go to Phuket Island together. They take a bus. How long does it take to get there?

In Phuket they eat lunch. Is the food spicy? What do they eat? After lunch they walk on the beach. Is the beach clean? Are there any boats in the water? How many people are there on the beach? Is it nicer than beaches in Japan? Are the people friendlier? Which beaches have you been to?

Suddenly the water goes out. It is very strange. The Kiwi and the Japanese walk up to their hotel. They look around. They see a wall of water. It is a tsunami. Are they afraid? They run into the hotel. They climb the stairs. How many stairs are there? The nurse falls over. Does the Kiwi fall over? The Kiwi helps the nurse. The water goes away. They go outside. There are many dead bodies on the beach. There are lots of injured people. One man has a broken leg. One woman is bleeding. A child is crying. Many people are crying. The nurse helps the people. An ambulance comes. The nurse goes to the hospital. It is very crowded. The nurse volunteers to help. What does the Kiwi guy do?

That night the nurse is very tired. She goes back to her hotel room. Does she have dinner? Does she drink anything? How does she feel? A lot of people have died on the beach. How many have died? The nurse goes to sleep. She dreams. What does she dream about? The next day she goes back to the hospital. There are many injured people. The hospital is very crowded. The nurse volunteers to help again. The New Zealander helps too. That night the nurse is very tired again. What will she do next? When will she go back to Japan? Is it the biggest tsunami in history? How many people have died? Is there enough food to feed the injured? Is there enough medicine? Are there enough beds in the hospital?