THE WATER CAR

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1. THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT ("be" verbs)

It is early in the morning in a small apartment in Japan. A student is asleep. His alarm clock rings. Is it loud? He wakes up. He looks at the ceiling. He is still tired. Is he very tired?

The student goes back to sleep. He wakes up an hour later. Is he still tired? Is he lazy? Is he a bad student? He gets up. He goes to the bathroom. Is it clean or dirty? He washes his face. Is the water cold? He cleans his teeth. He combs his hair. Is his hair long? What color is it?

The student goes to the kitchen. He opens the fridge. There is a carton of juice in the fridge. What kind of juice is it? The guy drinks it. It is bad. It is very old. How old is it?

The guy goes to the sink. He spits the bad juice into the sink. He washes his mouth out. He drinks some water then he cleans his teeth. What color is his toothbrush? Is it soft, hard or medium? What sort of toothpaste is it?

The student puts his clothes on. Are they clean? He leaves his apartment and he walks to the station. How far is it? What is the name of the station?

The train is late. It finally comes. It is very very crowded. The student has to stand up. Finally he gets to school. He is very late for class. His teacher is angry. He shouts at the student. Is the student sad? Is he angry?

After class the student goes to the cafeteria. He eats lunch. Is it expensive? Is it healthy? He sees some friends. They talk. In the afternoon the guy has another class. He goes to the class but he falls asleep in class. Is the class interesting? Is it important?

After class the student goes home. On the train he sees a really beautiful woman. Is her hair long? She is reading a book. What language is it in? Is it a thick book?

That night the student watches TV. He watches a serial. Is it interesting? Is it the first episode? Is the ending exciting?
2. THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN (there is/are)

A young Japanese university student is asleep in his apartment. He is dreaming. Is there a beautiful woman in his dream? The guy wakes up. He looks out the window. It is morning. Are there any clouds in the sky? Is it a nice day?

The guy gets up and washes his face and puts on his clothes. He goes to the fridge. Is there any food in the fridge? There is a carton of juice in the fridge. It is very old. How old is it? What kind of juice is it? The guy tips the juice into the sink then he throws the carton into the garbage bin. He makes a cup of tea. What kind of tea is it?

At the station, the guy sees a friend. He talks to the friend. They get on the train. There are ten carriages on the train. The train is really really full. There are no empty seats. There are a lot of students on the train. Are there any old people on the train? Are there any babies? Are there any foreigners?

Suddenly the guy sees a beautiful woman. She is really really attractive. She is like an angel. Her eyes are like stars. Her skin is like milk. Her hair is like coal. Her cheeks are red like apples. Her smile is like sunlight. The guy stares at her. Are there any other beautiful women on the train?

The train stops and the students go to the university. The guy walks to class. He can see the woman in front of him. She drops some keys. The guy runs ahead. He picks them up. They are on a small key ring. There is an ornament on the key ring. What is it? How many keys are there on the key ring? Are there any other ornaments? The guy hurries after the girl. He gives her the keys. She thanks him. He asks her to have coffee with him after class. She smiles and she says “Yes”.

The guy goes to class. How many students are there in his class? How many are absent that day? How many are present? Is it an interesting class? Are there any girls in the class? Are there any foreign students? Is the teacher Japanese?

After class the guy hurries to the cafeteria. Is it crowded? He sits down. He waits for the beautiful woman. He looks at his watch. What time is it? Is it an expensive watch? How big is it?
3. THE DATE (present simple tense)

A Japanese guy is sitting at the cafeteria at his university. He is waiting for a beautiful woman. Suddenly she arrives. She sits down. Is she late? She puts her bag down. How many books are there in her bag? Is it heavy? She smiles. She talks to the guy. What do they talk about? How long do they talk for? Does the woman have another class that day? Does the guy have another class that day?

The guy really likes the woman. Does she like him? He makes another date with her. That night he thinks about her and he has a strange dream. He dreams that he is in a big city. There is a lot of traffic. It is noisy and dirty and crowded. Suddenly the cars stop. Everybody dies. He looks in the cars. All the people are dead.

The guy wakes up. How does he feel? Does he remember his dream? Do you remember your dreams? Do you dream much? Two days later the guy meets the woman again. What time do they meet? They go to a restaurant. Is it expensive? What kind of restaurant is it? What does the guy order? What does the woman order? What time do they arrive? How long do they stay? What time do they leave?

The guy and the woman talk about the environment. The woman is a greenie. She loves nature. She worries about pollution. Is pollution a problem in Japan? She worries about the future of planet earth. Is global warming a big problem? She eats natural food. Is organic food cheap? She does not eat fast food. Is convenience store food healthy? The guy is very different from her. The guy eats a lot of fast food. Which convenience store does he like best? He does not think about the environment. He likes shopping. Where does he go shopping? He watches television every night. What is his favorite program?

After dinner the guy and the woman walk through the streets. They do not talk. The guy is happy but the woman is bored. The woman wants to talk but the guy is boring. The guy wants to see the woman again but she does not want to see him again. She does not like him.

That night the guy goes home late and he watches TV. What does he watch? Is it an intelligent program?
4. THE CHANGE (present continuous tense)

It is early in the morning in a Japanese guy’s apartment. He is asleep in his bed. He is dreaming about global warming. The ice at the north pole is melting. The ice at the south pole is melting. The sea level is rising. Is the sea level really rising? There are typhoons and tornadoes. Are there tornadoes in Japan? The earth is changing. Is it getting cooler? Many people are dying.

Suddenly the guy wakes up. He looks out the window. The sun is shining. Is it raining? It is a beautiful day but it is very very hot. The guy gets ready for university then he leaves his house. He walks to the station. How long does it take? At the station he sees a friend. What is the friend doing? What is he wearing? Do they talk?

On the train the guy sees the beautiful woman. She is wearing a colorful shirt. Is she wearing jeans? What kind of shoes is she wearing? Is she wearing a headscarf? Is she wearing make-up? Is she wearing any ear-rings? She is wearing a necklace. What is on it?

The guy talks to the woman. He asks her for a date but she does not want to go on a date with him. She does not like him. She thinks he is boring. She is interested in environmental problems and political problems but he is only interested in shopping and money. She thinks he is superficial.

At school that day the guy has three classes. One class is chemistry. Another class is design. During the class he looks around. A lot of the students are sleeping. What percentage of them are sleeping? The third class is an English class. During that class a lot of the students speak Japanese. During the class the guy thinks about the beautiful woman. At one point he looks around. Some of the students are sleeping and some of them are speaking Japanese. They are wasting their time. Only a few of them are speaking English. Only a few of them are using their time wisely. How many people are there in the class? How many of them are sleeping? How many of them are speaking Japanese?

After class the guy talks to another student. The student speaks really good English. He always asks questions in class. He is different from the others. He is not like everybody else. Are you different from other people?
5. THE RETURNEE (present perfect tense)

It is Wednesday afternoon in the cafeteria at a large Japanese university. A student is sitting at a table with a classmate. He has not talked to the classmate before. The classmate is a returnee. He has been to Europe and America and Australia. He has lived in Australia. He has studied there. He speaks good English.

The two guys are drinking. What is the returnee drinking? What is the other guy drinking? The returnee talks about life in Sydney. Has the other guy been to Australia? Does he want to go? Has he been to America? Does he want to go there? Has he been to Europe? Does he want to go there? Has he been to any other countries in Asia? Which countries does he want to go to? Has he traveled in Japan? Which prefectures has he been to? Does he want to go to Africa or South America?

The two classmates talk about the future. The returnee has talked about this topic a lot with his father. Has the other guy talked about it before? Has he thought about it? The returnee talks about new inventions and new products. He wants to start his own engineering company. He wants to design new products. What does the other guy want to do in the future?

The returnee talks about pollution. He talks about the causes of pollution. What are the causes of pollution? He talks about the oil industry. Later the two guys walk to the station together.

That night the guy dreams about global warming again. He dreams that he is in a big city. What is he wearing? What is the name of the city? Is pollution a big problem in that city? What other problems are there in that city?

In the dream a strange silent car passes the guy. He runs after it. The car stops. The guy opens the hood. There is a strange engine under the hood. It is very small. It is very quiet. The guy gets in the car. He drives the car to a gas station. The guy at the gas station fills the car with water. It is not a petrol car. It is a water car. The fuel is hydrogen. The exhaust is water. It is environmentally friendly. It does not pollute the environment. Has the guy ever seen a water car before? What companies in the world produce hydrogen cars now?
6. EMPLOYMENT ("would" conditional)

Two university students become friends. One of them has studied overseas but the other one has not. Would you study overseas? Would you work overseas? Would you live overseas permanently?

Time passes and the two university friends graduate. One of them gets a job at a big automobile company. Would you work for an automobile company? The other one gets a job at an electrical products company. Would you work for an electric company? The two friends stay in touch. They meet once a month.

One night the guy from the electric company has a strange dream. He dreams that he is driving a water car. He has had this dream many times but this time it is different. This time he can see the engine and he can understand how it works. Would you buy a water car?

The guy wakes up and he draws a design of the engine. He emails his friend at the automobile company. That weekend they meet. Do they meet at a restaurant? What time do they meet? What is the guy from the automobile company wearing? What is the guy from the electric company wearing?

The two friends talk about the design. In their spare time they build a model. The model works. The guy at the electric company tells his boss. Would you tell your boss? His boss is not interested. Would you be interested? The guy at the automobile company tells his boss. The boss is not interested. The two friends decide to leave their jobs and start their own company. Would you start your own company?

The guy from the automobile company borrows money from his father. The guy from the electric company borrows money from the bank. Together the two friends start a company. They produce a water car. The two guys want to sell water cars in Japan. They go to the government. They ask for a license. The government says “no”. If you were the government, would you say “no”? If the government said no, what would you do? Would you give up?

The two guys decide to go to America. They fly to Chicago. They arrange to meet the head of a big automobile company in America.
7. THE BUSINESS DEAL (future “going to”)

Two Japanese engineers are in Chicago. They are going to meet the president of a big American automobile manufacturer. They are sitting in a hotel room. What are they wearing? How long have they been in the hotel? They are going to meet the president the next day. What time are they going to meet him? Are they going to meet him in his office? What are they going to wear?

The time of the meeting arrives. The two guys tell the president about their water car. They talk about the environment. They offer to sell the car to the American company. The American guy wants to see the car. He wants to have a test drive. The car is in Japan. The American has to fly to Japan. They arrange a time to meet in Japan. What date are they going to meet? What city are they going to meet in? How long is the American going to stay in Japan? Is he going to take his wife? Has he been to Japan before?

The day of the meeting arrives. The American wants to see a demonstration of the water car. The two Japanese guys take the American for a drive. The American is impressed. The water car is safe, cheap and environmentally friendly. It is also light and fast and cheap to build. It is a great design. The three men sit down and talk for hours. They discuss details. They make a deal. The American guy is going to buy the water car and he is going to produce them in America. How much is he going to pay the two Japanese guys up front? Is he going to give them a percentage of his profits from the sales of the water car? Are they going to give up ownership of the design?

Time passes. The two Japanese guys get a big payment into their bank accounts. They are rich. They do not have to work anymore. Are they going to design more products? Are they going to retire?

One day one of the guys is walking along in the street. Suddenly he sees a beautiful woman. He remembers her from his university days. She is an environmental activist. She wants to save the environment. She is handing out flyers in the street. She works for an environmental protection organization. She is campaigning to stop pollution. She wants to ban cars from the city center. The guy walks up to the woman. Is he going to talk to her? Is he going to ask her for a date?
A young Japanese engineer is standing in the street staring at a beautiful woman. Is staring rude? He has seen her before. He knows her from university. Is going to university expensive? The guy walks up to the woman. He says: “Do you remember me?”

The woman remembers him. He offers to buy her lunch. He says he wants to talk to her. The woman thinks about it for a minute. Is standing in the street handing out flyers fun? Is saving the forest easy? Is being an environmental activist difficult? The woman says she is busy. The guy insists. He smiles. The woman smiles back. She agrees to have lunch with him. Would you? The two of them go to a small restaurant nearby. What does the man order? What does the woman order? Is eating out expensive?

The engineer talks about the water car. The woman is impressed. She tells the man about her life. She works very hard but she does not earn a lot of money. Is earning money important? She wants to save the forest. She wants to go to South America. Is traveling to South America safe? Is it expensive? She wants to see the Amazon. People are cutting down the forest in the Amazon. Is saving the forest important? Is it possible? The woman goes back to work but she agrees to meet the engineer again.

The engineer is in love with the woman. Is being in love painful? That night he calls his business partner. They talk about love. Is talking about love interesting? Next they talk about the water car. Is producing a water car a good idea? The American company has not produced the water car. The company has paid them a lot of money but it has not produced the car.

The next day the two engineers contact the American company again. They talk about the water car. They want to save the environment. The president of the American company does not want to produce the water car. He wants to make money from petrol cars. He wants to stop the water car. He does not care about the environment. He cares about profit. Is protecting the environment important? Is destroying the environment for profit a good idea? Is saving the environment possible?
9. BRAZIL (adjective plus infinitive)

Six months pass. The young engineer becomes friends with the beautiful environmental activist. He wants to settle down and marry her but she wants to save the Amazon. Is it possible to save the Amazon? The woman goes to Brazil. Where is Brazil? What is the national language of Brazil? She works for an environmental organization in Brazil. The engineer follows her. Would you follow her? He stays with her in Rio de Janeiro. Is Rio the capital of Brazil? Is it the biggest city? Is it expensive to fly from Japan to Rio? Is it safe to walk around in Rio at night?

The woman works with environmental activists from many countries. Is it interesting to work with people from other countries? Is it necessary to speak English? Is it necessary to speak Portuguese? Is it hard to learn Portuguese?

In Brazil the Japanese engineer meets a Brazilian businessman. The businessman works for a Brazilian automobile manufacturer. The engineer tells the businessman about the water car. Is it cheap to produce cars in Brazil?

The engineer contacts his partner in Japan. The partner flies to Brazil. Is it possible to fly direct from Japan to Brazil? Is it possible to get a visa on arrival or is it necessary to go to the embassy in Japan first? Would you go to Brazil?

The two engineers meet the Brazilian businessman in a big office. He introduces them to some other businessmen. They sign a contract. They are going to produce the water car in Brazil.

Meanwhile on the Amazon a group of people from many different countries are traveling up the river on a boat. One of them is a beautiful Japanese woman. She is an environmental activist. Is it dangerous to travel up the Amazon by boat?

The boat comes to a logging area. It is illegal to log in this area but logging companies are cutting down the trees. Logs are floating down the river. There are no police. The activists try to stop the logging. Is it dangerous to oppose the logging company? Is it possible to get help from the police? Is it easy to bribe the police in the Amazon? Are the local people happy to have jobs?
10. THE WATER CAR (comparatives)

Eighteen months pass. The Brazilian company begins to produce water cars. Water cars are cleaner than petrol cars. They are more environmentally friendly. Are they cheaper? Are they faster? Are they bigger?

The water cars are very popular. Are they more popular than petrol cars? How many cars per month does the factory produce? Do they export the cars to Argentina? Do they export the cars to Chile? How does Argentina compare to Brazil?

Water cars are very safe. They are not noisy and they are not dirty and they do not use petrol so they do not smell bad. The Brazilian company makes a lot of money. Nobody wants to buy petrol cars. Everybody wants to buy water cars.

The president of the American automobile manufacturer contacts the two Japanese engineers. He is very angry. His company is losing money. Is his company bigger than the Brazilian company? How does America compare to Brazil? How does America compare to Japan? The American guy has bought the water car but he does not want to produce it. He wants to produce petrol cars. How do petrol cars compare to water cars? How do cars compare to bicycles? How does driving compare to riding? How does driving compare to walking?

The American guy is going to sue the Brazilian company. He is also going to sue the two engineers. Is suing people common in America? Is it common in Japan? Is the Japanese legal system slower than the American legal system? Are American lawyers cheaper than Japanese lawyers? How does being a lawyer compare to being a rice farmer?

The American guy returns to Chicago. The two engineers get a letter from a lawyer in America. They have to go to the United States for a court case. They do not want to go. Would you go?

Meanwhile the beautiful Japanese environmental activist is still in the Amazon. She is living in a huge tree. She is living at the top of the tree in a small tree house. She wants to protect the forest with her life. Is her life better now than before?
11. THE MURDEREROUS LOGGERS (mixed patterns)
It is Monday morning in a courtroom in Washington DC. Is that on the west coast? Two Japanese guys and a Brazilian guy are sitting at a big table. What are they wearing? An American guy from an automobile company is suing them. What is the American guy wearing? He is suing them for producing a water car. He says it is his water car. Is the judge a woman? Would you work as a lawyer? How many people are there in the courtroom? Is it difficult to find a seat?

The two Japanese guys lose the court case. Are they going to appeal? They fly back to Brazil. They have lost a lot of money. One of the guys returns to Japan. What is he going to do there? Is he going to retire? The other guy cannot return to Japan because his girlfriend is in Brazil and he wants to wait for her. She is an environmental activist. Does she belong to Greenpeace? Does she belong to Friends of the Earth? Is she positive about the future?

The environmental activist is living at the top of a huge tree in the forest near the Amazon River. How tall is the tree? What is its diameter? Are there any monkeys in the tree? How far is it from the river? Some loggers come. It is illegal to log in this area. The loggers have guns. The local Indians fight the loggers but the loggers kill the Indians then they cut down the trees. The Japanese environmental activist at the top of the tree watches the murder. She takes photographs. Would you do that? What kind of camera does she have? What are the Indians wearing? How many of them do the loggers kill?

That night the woman leaves the tree. She runs through the forest. Is she afraid? She comes to the river. She goes down the river by boat. She goes to a small city. She develops the film. Is it Fuji film? It shows the loggers. They are murderers. The woman goes to the police. The police laugh at her. The loggers pay the police. The police arrest the woman. They put her in a prison cell. Do they beat her up? Do they rape her? Do they confiscate her film?

Meanwhile in Rio the Japanese guy is trying to call his girlfriend. She has a mobile phone but she is not answering her phone. It rings and rings and rings. The guy gets drunk. What would you do if you were in his situation?
12. THE BAR (mixed patterns)
It is late at night in a bar in Rio. A Japanese guy runs the bar. He is an ex-engineer. He bought the bar and now he works there and gets drunk every day. How many stools are there in the bar? Does it sell draft beer? Is it a popular bar? Is it expensive? The Japanese guy is working behind the bar. What is he wearing? How many customers are there in the bar? What are they wearing? What are they talking about?

A woman comes in. She orders a drink. What does she order? Suddenly the guy recognizes her. It is his girlfriend. She is an environmental activist. He has not seen her for a year. She has been in prison. The police have confiscated her pictures of murderous loggers. The loggers have cut down the big tree that she lived in. She has given up her dream. She is a sad person. She has become an alcoholic. The Japanese guy is an alcoholic too. Does he drink at breakfast time? What kind of alcohol does he drink? Is he going to give it up one day?

The guy and the woman talk for a long time. They get drunk and they laugh and cry and hug each other. Finally they go back to the guy’s apartment. He still has a water car. Is it a four-cylinder car? He drives the car but he is drunk and he crashes into a light pole. Would you drive if you were drunk? The guy and the woman are ok. They abandon the car. Would you do that? Would you call the police? The two Japanese walk back to the apartment. They go inside and sleep for a whole day. Have you ever slept for a whole day.

The next day the two lovers talk about their problems. Their problems are loneliness and despair and alcoholism. Is it possible to solve these problems? The woman decides to give up drinking. Is it hard to give up drinking? The guy decides to sell his bar. Have you ever met an alcoholic?

A month later the guy sells his bar. The two lovers quit drinking and go hiking in the Andes. What countries does the Andes run through? Do the two travelers visit Machu Picchu? After their trip, they return to Japan. Do they fly via Canada? How long have they been away from Japan? Are they happy to return to Japan? Have they forgotten Japanese? Have they learned Portuguese? Have they kept in contact with their parents?
It is a beautiful Autumn day in Japan. The maple leaves have turned orange and yellow and red and now they are falling to the ground. Is it going to rain soon? A Japanese guy and his girlfriend are walking in a small temple. Do they have umbrellas with them? They sit down and eat lunch. What do they eat? Is the weather cold? Are there many people in the temple? The couple talk as they eat.

The guy has been rich and now he is poor again. The woman has been an environmental activist all her life. She is poor too. The couple want to have a baby but they do not have much money. They woman works in a convenience store. What kind of convenience store is it? The man drives a truck but they cannot get regular work. Would you drive a delivery truck for a job?

The two lovers have had a hard life but they are happy because they have each other. Suddenly the guy’s phone rings. It is his old friend from the water car company. He has appealed the case in the Supreme Court in the United States. He has won. It is possible to produce the water car again. The Brazilian company will start to produce water cars next month. A Japanese company wants to produce water cars too. The guy is going to be rich again.

The couple decide to have a baby. Do they want a boy or a girl? Where are they going to live?

Two years later water cars are popular in Asia and Europe and America. Are they popular in South America too? Would you drive a water car? Are you worried about environmental problems?

The American government has changed. Would you vote for the Republicans if you were an American? The Japanese government has changed. All over the world governments and people are working together to solve environmental problems.

Is it really possible to save the earth? Do big corporations control governments? Are big corporations evil? Would you work for an oil company or an automobile company? What kind of job are you going to get in the future? Is there a conspiracy of oil companies and automobile companies to suppress alternative technology and keep the world dependent on petrol?