

# If . . .

## Scene 1. a living room.

Announcer: Wait a moment: our drama is still under construction.  
Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. Welcome to a true story. His name is Harry Harry Harrison. He's a professional dancer. [Harry Dances badly.] He's a secret agent. [Fires gun and is scared.] He's a magician. [Makes flower appear from the fly of his trousers.]  
No! No no no! He never did any of these things. Harry Harry Harrison has actually been in school for the last 52 years. He's the oldest student in the world. [Looks like old man.] He has a degree in mathematics. [Tears it in two.] He has a degree in Physics. [Sends it flying into audience.] He has a degree in advanced writing. [Gives it to member of audience to read.]  
Oh look, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls: here comes his friend Sue.

Sue: Hi Harry.  
Harry: Hi Sue.  
Sue: So, you have a degree in mathematics.  
Harry: Yes. Actually I have two degrees in mathematics. [Shows three fingers.]  
Sue: 1, 2, 2? [Copies his finger counting.] And you have a degree in Physics.  
Harry: Yeah.

An apple comes rolling across the stage making a sound like a clanking tin can. Harry dives for it and retrieves it.

Sue: Is that Newton's Apple?  
Harry: No, it's my apple. [Starts to eat it.]  
Sue: And you have a degree in advanced writing.  
Harry: Yes.  
Sue: You are very well educated. And so many degrees. So how come you are so stupid?  
Harry: I went to a very good school.  
Sue: You went to a very good school and you are so stupid? That makes no sense.

Harry  
Sue  
FX  
Harry  
Sue  
Harry  
Sue  
Harry  
FX  
Sue  
Harry  
Sue

It was a very good school with very *bad* teachers.  
Very bad teachers. Mmm. Like [whispers to audience] Phoenix.  
So, maybe it's time to get a job and go to work.  
Every time the word work is said throughout the show, Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> da da da daaaa is heard.  
A *job*? Go to *work*? But I like school so much.  
Mmm. Maybe you can get a job in a school. And then you can go to school and go to work at the same time.  
Hey, can I go to school and go to work at *different* times?  
Mmm, maybe.  
Ok, I'll ask a teacher.  
Sound of water dripping.  
[Looking up.] Oh, is there a leak?  
Leak? Yes, yes, can you find it?  
Ok. Give me a bucket.

Sue looks for the leak while Harry goes stage left and pees in a bottle.

FX  
Sue

Sound of peeing in a bottle.  
What are you doing?

Harry shakes his penis dry.

FX  
Sue  
Harry

Hand bell rings.  
Is there really a leak? Did you find it?  
Yeah, I found it.

Harry puts bottle of pee on the floor.

Announcer

Hi. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, Harry Harry Harrison has decided to talk to a teacher.

Harry calls on a mobile. Recorded devils type voice:

Voice

If you would like to speak to a teacher, please press 666.

Harry  
FX  
Harry  
FX

666?  
Thunder and lightening.  
Number 666?  
Thunder and lightening.

Harry dials 666.

FX Thunder and lightening.  
Voice Hello?  
Harry Hello? Am I speaking to a teacher?  
Voice A good question.  
Harry Do you have a good answer?  
Voice Yes.  
Harry What's the answer?  
Voice Yes. Yes is the answer.  
Harry Hey, now: what's the question?  
Voice I don't remember.  
Harry Ok. Goodbye.  
Voice Goodbye. [Evil laughter.]  
Sue What did he say?  
Harry I don't remember.  
Sue I told you not to speak to a teacher.  
Harry [Drinks from bottle of pee.] Hey, what's that? I know, this is my piss.  
Sue Really? I know, piss is very good for our health. [She drinks from the bottle.] Do you want some? [Offers audience member.]  
Announcer Hi. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, Harry Harry Harrison has decided to speak to an advisor. He needs help.

## **Scene 2: advisors office**

Stage lights are off. Harry and advisor stand on opposite sides of a counter. Each has a table lamp which he turns on when speaking and off when listening. Towards the end they get confused and lights switch on and off willy-nilly.

Advisor Hi.  
Harry Hi. I'd like to see and advisor. I need advice.  
Advisor It's true?  
Harry Of course it's true. You think I lied?  
Advisor *Ride?*  
Harry Not *ride*. *Lied*.  
Advisor *Ride?*  
Harry Hey, watch my tongue: L I I I I I I I lied.  
Advisor You lied?  
Harry No.  
Advisor Oh. Well what do you want?  
Harry I'd like to see and advisor. I need advice.  
Advisor I *am* an advisor. I give advice too. We'll go in my office.  
Harry Good.

Advisor Please walk this way.  
Harry This way? [Harry copies silly walk of advisor. Harry sits.]  
Advisor Now, please, please sit down.  
Harry [Harry stands.] Thank you.  
Advisor You're welcome.  
Harry Oh, I have a big problem. My problem is as big as an elephant.  
Advisor Elephant? I like elephants.  
FX Jungle and elephants sounds.  
Harry Ok. Can you give me advice?  
Advisor Yes.  
Harry For free?  
Advisor Yes. I give free advice for only 10 million yen.  
Harry 10 million yen? How much is that in dollars?  
Advisor Er, one.  
Harry One? Ok. [Gives money.]  
Advisor Thanks. Now, please, stand up. Stand up.

Harry sits.

Harry Ok, my problem is this: I want to go to school, but I want to go to work at the same time. What should I do?  
Advisor You want to go to school, and you want to go to work at the same time?  
Harry Yes.  
Advisor My advice is: learn to teach English as a second language. Then you can go to school and you can go to work at the same time because you will be working in a school.  
Harry Fantastic.  
FX Romantic music.

They embrace.

Announcer. Hi. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, Harry Harry Harrison has decided to become an English teacher. Only, there is a problem. He will speak to Mrs. Administration.

### **Scene 3: an office**

Harry Hello.  
Mrs. Admin. Hello  
Harry Are you responsible for problems?  
Mrs. Admin. Yes. I'm responsible for *all* problems.

Harry Great. I have a problem. You know, I'm intelligent. I have a degree in Origami.

Mrs. Admin. Show me.

Harry [Makes a flapping bird. Flaps its wings.]

Mrs. Admin. Can I try? [She flaps its wings and destroys it.] Oh. So, what's your problem?

Harry My problem? I want to teach English as a second language, but I was told I have to take an *elementary* writing class.

Mrs. Admin. Mmm.

Harry It's crazy. I have a degree in *advanced* writing. I can even write in Japanese with my eyes closed.

Mrs. Admin. Show me.

Harry Ok. [Stand up and closes eyes. Writes insults in Japanese on the white board.]

Mrs. Admin. Wow. that's very good. What does it mean?

Harry Oh, It means you are beautiful. [Sniggers aside to audience.]

Mrs. Admin. Thank you. Thank you. But, you know, you still have to take the elementary writing class.

Harry It's crazy. I can even write in Japanese and cry at the same time.

Mrs. Admin. Show me.

Harry [Sobs and writes more insults on white board.]

Mrs. Admin. Absolutely fantastic. What does it mean?

Harry Oh, It means, I'm almost falling in love with you. [Sniggers aside.]

Mrs. Admin. Absolutely fabulous. *But*, rules are rules.

Harry It's crazy. I can write in Japanese and drink at the same time.

Mrs. Admin. Show me.

Harry Ok. [Partially hidden he drinks from large sake bottle.]

FX Tick tock time is passing.

Mrs. Admin. One hour!

Harry returns centre stage, drunk. Pours a glass for Mrs. Admin. Administration.

Mrs. Admin. Ok. Show me.

Harry writes insults on white board.

Mrs. Admin. Absolutely fantastic. Are you ok?

Harry throws up.

Mrs. Admin. Urgh. Are you ok?  
Harry Ok.  
Mrs. Admin. Ok?  
Both Lots of okays etc.  
Announcer Ok. Be quiet.

Mrs. Administration and Harry continue to cause a disturbance: Harry throwing up, Mrs. Administration saying ok. Announcer shoots them both dead with a pistol.

Announcer Ok. Even though Harry can write very well, rules are rules and he must take an *elementary* writing class.

Blackout.

Announcer Hi. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, one day something very strange happened. Oh, look, Harry Harry Harrison is talking to one of his old teachers in the sacred hallways of the school.

#### **Scene 4: sacred hallway**

Harry What an old teacher.  
Old Teacher Alan? Is that you Alan? [Old teacher is looking in the wrong direction.]

Harry No. Harry. Harry Harry Harrison.

Old Teacher Larry?

Harry Harry.

Old Teacher Hari Kari?

Harry Harry Harry.

Old Teacher Oh, it's you *Harry*. I'm sorry. I'm feeling very very old. My brain is feeling very tired. Very very. [Lots of verys etc.] I work too hard. I need to help. Maybe you could teach one of my classes.

Harry Why not? Hey, which class do you want me to teach, teacher?

Announcer Hi. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. Which class do you think the old teacher wants Harry Harry Harrison to teach? A class of jumping up and down?

Harry tries to jump and fails.

Announcer Which class does the dear old teacher want Harry Harry Harrison to teach? What? What what what? [Lots of whats etc.]

FX Drum roll.  
Old Teacher I want you to teach the ELEMENTARY WRITING CLASS.

### Scene 5: a class room

Announcer Hi. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, imagine now a classroom where Harry Harry Harrison is the teacher in the Elementary Writing Class. And imagine the same classroom where Harry Harry Harrison is a student in the Elementary Writing Class. Yes: he's a teacher—and a student, in the same class.

Harry Hi boys and girls. My name is Mr. Harry Harry Harrison. Welcome to the Elementary Writing Class. Hey, could you tell me all your names?

Student #1 My name is Gonzimon.  
Student #2 Panem.  
Student #3 Shinkijin

Harry And you there? [Talking to empty seat.] Hey, what's your name?

Changes places, sits down and put on a hat.

Harry (Student) My name is Harry Harry Harrison.

Switches places and removes hat etc.

Harry (Teacher) Oh, you are Harry? Harry Harry Harrison, I've heard you are a very good student!

Harry (Student) I've heard you're a very good teacher!

Harry (Teacher) Thank you very much. Ok, now, who can spell DOG?

All I can. I can etc.

Harry (Teacher) How about you Harry?

Student #1 goes to the whiteboard and writes.

Student #1 I think that's right.  
Harry (Teacher) No. That doesn't say DOG. That says GOD.  
Student #1 I don't believe it!  
Harry (Teacher) Ok, now, who can spell DOG *correctly*?  
ALL Me me etc.

Student #2 goes to the whiteboard. Writes DOG.

Harry (Teacher) No. No no no. Hey, Harry, why don't you stand up and show them.

Harry (Student) Yes Great Emperor.

Writes CAT.

Harry (Teacher) Great, Harry. that's correct.

ALL No no etc.

Harry (Teacher) C.A.T. Dog. Well done. 100%.

ALL Boo etc.

Student # 3 He's crazy.

Student #2 He's potty.

Student #1 He's insane.

Student # 3 He's dotty.

Student #2 He's loony.

Student #1 He's notty.

Harry (Teacher) He's a very good student.

Harry (Student) He's a very good teacher.

Student # 3 I'm excellent.

Student #2 I'm a genius.

Student #1 I'm not so bad

All I'm great etc.

Arguments and mayhem ensues.

Announcer Our drama is still under construction. Wait until next semester.