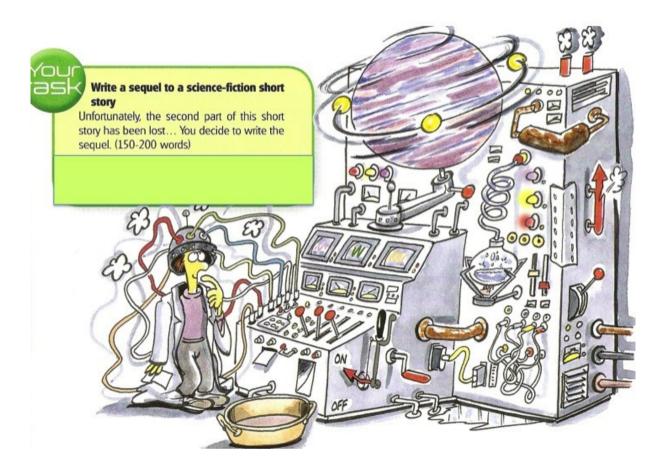
The Materializer



HE MATERIALIZER WAS COMPLETED. Ned Quinn stood back, wiped his hands, and admired the huge bank of dials, lights and switches. Several years and many fortunes had gone into his project. Finally it was ready.

Ned placed the metal skullcap on his head and plugged the wires into the control panel. He turned the switch to ON and spoke: "Pound note".

There was a whirring sound¹. In the Receiver a piece of paper appeared. Ned inspected it. Real.

"Martini," he said.

A whirring sound. A puddle² formed in the Receiver. Ned cursed silently. He had a lot to learn.

"A bottle of beer," he said.

The whirring sound was followed by the appearance of the familiar brown bottle. Ned tasted the contents and grinned.

Chuckling3, he experimented further.

Ned enlarged the Receiver and prepared for his greatest experiment. He switched on the Materializer, took a deep breath and said...

R.T. KUROSAKA, A Lot to Learn (1978)