

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1006

Hi! Welcome back to PR Junior!

Since it snowed last week, let's learn some words that are used during a snowstorm! First, we need shovels to scoop up the snow. In colder areas, people have snowblowers. Many children love playing in the snow by building snow forts for snowball fights. Others like making snow angels by lying in the fresh snow. After a long day, children love drinking some hot chocolate.

Anyways, that's all for today. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1006

Hey, guys! Welcome back to PR 1!

Today, you're going to listen to a story about softball. Let's begin!

Softball started in the United States as an indoor replacement for baseball. In 1895, a firefighter started softball as a game firefighters could play indoors in their spare time. Today, after many changes, it is played all over the world. In 1966, softball became an official Olympic game in the women's competition, and the American team won the gold medal that year.

Softball and baseball are similar in many ways: both are played on a diamond with a bat and a ball by two teams of nine players each. However, the biggest difference is in the way a ball is pitched.

That is all for today! Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1006

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR 2!

Today I will talk about “owarai” comedy in Japan. Let’s begin!

In Japan, comedy, in general, is called “owarai”, and is a form of entertainment in which comedians bring laughter to their audiences on stage through TV shows and manzai programs. There are many different types of comedy, including situational comedy, comedies in which only one person puts on a show, comedies in which two or three people work as a group, impersonation comedies, comedy musicals, and more. Comedy shows are held on stages all over Japan, and many customers go to comedy shows in search of a good laugh.

One popular type of owarai is called “manzai”. Manzai is basically a pair of two comedians acting out two roles respectively called “boke” and “tsukkomi”. “Boke” is the person who says funny or unintelligible things in the show’s material, and “tsukkomi” is the person who points out the mistakes or unintelligible things to boke in a fast-paced, laugh-out-loud manner.

You may have often heard this Japanese phrase: “Nandeyanen” in that [it] often comes up in Japanese entertainment. This is one of the typical examples of a tsukkomi phrase. Comedy in manzai is the exhilaration of pointing out funny points in a fast-paced and speedy manner, which leads to laughter.

That’s all for today! See you!