

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1007

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior!

Today I will talk about rabbits. Let's begin!

Rabbits make great pets. They are soft. They are cute. They are funny. Do you have time to care for one?

Most rabbits live around 8 to 12 years. They need a big cage. They need food. They need hay. They need water.

Rabbits need to exercise. They need to get out of their cages.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1007

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1!

Today I am going to continue the story about Kazuki and Andrew!

One Friday in April, Kazuki, Andrew, and other members of the club got together in a classroom after school. They introduced themselves and enjoyed talking. Then Kazuki gave them some yokan and explained, "Yokan is a sweet made from beans and sugar."

Andrew looked surprised. He tried a bite and said to Kazuki, "I'm sorry. I cannot eat yokan. I eat beans, but I usually don't eat sweet-cooked ones. I see some beans in it. It looks strange to me."

Kazuki was shocked to hear that. Next, Andrew showed the members rice pudding. He said, "Rice pudding is popular in my country. It's made from rice, milk, and sugar. Yesterday, I made some with my host mother."

Kazuki was surprised.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1007

Hello! Welcome back to PR2!

We're seeing some hints of spring like the blooming of plum flowers and warmer weather! Today I have a question for you guys: why is Japan called "Japan" and not "Nihon"? If you were wondering the same thing, you're watching the right video — let me explain it to you.

It is well-known that Marco Polo introduced Japan to the Western World, and he called Japan "Zipangu". He wrote that in Japan there was gold everywhere, but he actually never traveled there. He went only to the southern part of China.

Chinese people called Japan "The Land of the Rising Sun," but interestingly, in the days of Marco Polo and even nowadays, in the southern part of China, the kanji characters for Nihon were pronounced as Ji-pang. He called Japan "Zipang" because people in the south part of China told him about the country of the rising sun and the term they used to refer to it. This is how Marco Polo brought the name "Japan" to the Western World.

So in simple terms, the etymology of Japan and Nihon are the same, just different [pronunciations] of the same kanji.

If Marco Polo actually visited Japan, our country may have been called Nihon. Other countries also have different names from their English counterparts, like Aotearoa and New Zealand, Deutschland and Germany, and Hanguk and South Korea.

Anyways, that is all from me today. See you next time!