

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1008

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Take a listen to the response email from Billy's aunt. Let's begin!

Hi Billy,

Yes, I'm going to go to your home on Sunday, but I have to leave early. Please send your speech to me by e-mail. I'll check it on Saturday night, and I'll send it back to you on Sunday morning. On Sunday, I'm going to bring some carrot cake for dessert. Please tell your dad.

That's all for today. See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1008

Hi, guys! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, we are going to listen to a promotion about winter resorts.

Many people love to travel to ski resorts in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado during this season. There are several motives. To begin with, the ski resort offers a special discount for the winter season. If you buy 1 pair of snow-shoes, they will provide you with a free ski-set ticket. Moreover, the quality of the snow in Colorado this season is unusually good. Soft and light snow, often known as "powder snow", now [covers] the slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Finally, some famous skiers will perform a special snow show after the buffet* dinner. All in all, the Rocky Mountains Ski Resort is a must in this season.

How was it? Hope to see you soon. Bye!

* pronounced "buffay"

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1008

Hello, everyone! This is PR2.

Today's topic is about [the] Spanish word "Pura vida". Let's begin!

If you visit Costa Rica, you will undoubtedly come across the words *pura vida* at some point, whether that's on the colorful hand-[painted] signs that are ubiquitous across the country or when friendly staff welcome you to any restaurant, hotel or shop. It's so [embedded] in local culture that in November 2023, the phrase was included in the global Spanish dictionary compiled by the Royal Spanish Academy (RAE) in Madrid for the first time.

In English, *pura vida* can be directly translated as "pure life". While, according to the RAE definition, it can describe a person as nice or friendly or relate to good health, it can also express agreement, describe something as good, or serve as a greeting or farewell.

But it is so much more than this to Costa Ricans; it's a shared identity, a feeling of optimism, and a uniquely positive outlook on life. A Costa Rican woman grew up surrounded by the phrase, but after nearly five years living in London, she realised that I felt disconnected from its meaning. On a trip back to Costa Rica to visit her family and friends, she wanted to rediscover *pura vida* by finding out what it means to others and see if she could feel it again.

That's all for today! See you!