

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1009

Hello!

Today I will share a story called *The Baby Sitter*. Let's begin.

The baby sitter came to the Tanaka's house. The parents are going to a party. They told the kids to go back to sleep. After the parents left, the kids asked if they [could] play. The baby sitter said yes, and the kids started a pillow fight. The baby sitter joined in and the house got messy. "Oh, no!" said the baby sitter.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1009

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to another PR1 movie!

Are you enjoying the plum flowers? Today, I wanted to share about my pets from when I was young.

In middle school, I once caught a marine hermit crab with my bare hands at the local beach. It was a red one with thick claws and a bumpy shell. That one did not survive for long, but we welcomed four more from Florida as official pets.

I was shocked when I first fed them with chopsticks. The menu of the day was clams, and they ripped the meat from my chopsticks and began cutting [it] into smaller pieces with their claws. It was adorable.

We're out of time today, so see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1009

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to another PR2 video.

Today we will be talking about languages.

The benefits which would flow from the existence of a global language are considerable, but some commentators have pointed to possible risks. Perhaps a global language will hasten* the disappearance of minority languages.

The existence of vigorous movements in support of language minorities, commonly associated with nationalism, illustrates an important truth about the nature of language in general. The need for mutual understanding, which is part of the argument in favor of a global language, is only one side of the story. The other side is the need for identity, and people tend to underestimate the role of identity when they express anxieties about language injury and death. Language is a major means of showing where we belong, and of distinguishing one social group from another.

Arguments about the need for national or cultural identity are often seen as being opposed to those about the need for mutual understanding. But this is misleading. It is perfectly possible to develop a situation in which understanding and identity happily co-exist. This situation is the familiar one of bilingualism, but it is a bilingualism where one of the speaker's two languages is a global language, providing access to the world community. The two functions can be seen as complementary, responding to different needs. And it is because the functions are so different that a world of language variety can continue to exist in a world united by a common language.

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

* pronounced "hay-s'n"