

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1018

Good afternoon! This is PR Junior.

Since it is already March, let's talk about spring fruits! I wonder what kind of fruit is your favorite! There are strawberries, apricots, blackberries, and mangoes, for example. I love cherries, but they are so expensive in Japan!

Also, have you ever gone strawberry picking? It is a popular activity in Japan, and in some places, you can eat the strawberries you picked!

Let me know what your favorites are next time. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1018

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, let's explore the fascinating history of pizza, a beloved dish cherished around the world.

Legend has it that pizza originated in Naples, Italy, during the 18th century. It was initially a simple flatbread topped with tomatoes, garlic, and olive oil, and enjoyed by the working class. However, its popularity soared when Queen Margherita of Italy tried a version with tomatoes, mozzarella cheese, and basil, resembling the colors of the Italian flag. This inspired the classic Margherita pizza we know today. The concept quickly spread beyond Italy, becoming a global sensation with countless variations, from traditional Neapolitan to deep-dish Chicago style. Whether you prefer a classic Margherita or a loaded Meat Lover's, pizza remains a beloved comfort food enjoyed by people of all cultures and ages.

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

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1018

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I am going to talk about [the] international space station “retiring” soon.

Since its first modules launched at the end of 1998, the International Space Station has been orbiting 250 miles above Earth. But at the end of 2030, NASA plans to crash the ISS into the ocean after it is replaced with a new space station, a reminder that nothing within Earth's orbit can stay in space forever. NASA is collaborating on developing a space station owned, built, and operated by a private company – either Axiom Space, Voyager Space, or Blue Origin. NASA is giving each company hundreds of millions of dollars in funding and sharing their expertise* with them. Eventually, they will select one company to officially partner with and have them replace the ISS. NASA says this will help them focus on deep space exploration, which they consider a much more difficult task. But any company that is able to develop their own space station, get approval from the federal government and launch it into space will be able to pursue their own deep space missions – even without the approval of NASA. Phil McCalister, director of the Commercial Space Division of NASA, told NPR's Morning Edition that NASA does not want to own in perpetuity everything in low-Earth orbit – which is up to 1,200 miles above Earth's surface. "We want to turn those things over to other organizations that could potentially do it more cost-effectively, and then focus our research and activities on deep space exploration," said McCalister.

That's it for today! See you!