

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1038

Hey, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior Dictation Challenge!

Jerry woke up on Monday. He grabbed a box he was keeping under his bed. When he came downstairs his parents asked him what was inside. "Something really fun," he said, but nothing more. Jerry walked to his bus stop with the box in his hands. Everybody at the bus stop asked him what was in it. "It is very important," he said, but nothing more.

I wonder, what is inside Jerrys box?

Dictation Contest (PR 1 , 中級) No. 1038

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Did you go ohanami this year? Today I will talk about cherry blossoms. Let's begin!

Cherry blossoms bloom at a certain time because of temperature. After the flowers fall off, the tree makes new buds in summer, and then the trees sleep in fall and winter. When spring comes and it gets warmer, the buds bloom.

Warm weather alone won't make the flowers bloom early. They need cold weather in fall and winter to wake up in the spring. In places with warm winters, cherry trees actually bloom later. The flowers keep growing until they fall. If it stays cool after they bloom, the flowers last longer. Also, rain doesn't make them fall; it's the warm, sunny days after rain that makes them grow faster.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1038

Hello, welcome back to another PR2 movie!

As requested, here is the sequel to my previous movie on confident speakers. Last time, we covered eye contact and gestures. That was how to “look” confident, so today we’re learning how to “sound” confident.

First and foremost, eliminate filler words including “um”, “ah”, “like”, and “you know?” The excessive use of filler words can make speakers sound unsure of themselves. It takes practice, but cutting these filler words will significantly improve your speaking skills. Try recording yourself presenting and you’ll be shocked at how many filler words you use – that’s what happened to me when I filmed my first movie here.

Also, don’t be afraid to take a short pause. Most people use filler words because they’re afraid of silence. It takes confidence to use dramatic pauses. A pause gives your audience a break between thoughts.

It is a great idea to choose one or two phrases in your next presentation that express the key message you want to leave your audience with. Pause before you deliver those lines. In the same way, confident speakers vary the pace of their speech. They slow down and speed up to accentuate their most important points. 150 to 160 words per minute is slow enough to be understood, but not so fast that the listener struggles to keep up.

Okay, that is all that I have for today! I hope this helps in your next interview or presentation. See you in the next video!