

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1055

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior!

One of Canada's most famous dishes is pancakes with maple syrup. Pancakes are made from eggs, milk and flour\*, and they are cooked on a griddle. They are round and quite thick, and they are served with maple syrup poured over the top. Maple syrup is made from the sap of the sugar maple tree. The sap is collected from the trees in early spring. The syrup is delicious when poured on ice-cream, waffles – and, of course, pancakes.

That's it! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1055

Good afternoon, my PR1 listeners!

Did you enjoy your day at school today? Since I am a huge fan of cats, let's learn about cat language!

First, cats use their voices to show emotion, such as meowing, purring, and hissing. Even though adult cats normally do not meow at each other, house cats have learned to meow at humans to communicate their needs.

Next, cats also communicate with their ears. If their ears are facing forward, they are interested in something. If they are sideways and backwards, the cat is probably stressed. Finally, if a cat winks or blinks slowly at you, that means that they trust you.

I have seen a cat do this to me before, and it made me so incredibly happy. Anyways, that is all from me today. Goodbye!

\* Pronounced the same as "flower"

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1055

Hey, everyone! Welcome back to the PR 2 dictation challenge!

Australia's ecosystems are under threat from one of the world's most invasive species – the red fire ant. The tiny ant is native to South America, but has spread worldwide. It causes huge damage to crops and farms. It also kills indigenous insects and other animals, including livestock. The ant's painful and venomous sting can cause allergic reactions in humans. It is deadly and can cause fatal anaphylactic shock. The Minister for Agriculture called the ants a "super-pest, which cause serious social, economic and environmental harm".

Red fire ants were first found in Australia in 2001. They were only in the state of Queensland, until now. Australia's Invasive Species Council – ISC – says the ants are spreading because of flood waters. They are clinging to each other to create "rafts" on the water. An ISC statement said: "Fire ants are more active before or after rainfall and can form large floating rafts, which move with water currents to establish footholds in new areas." It warned that the fire ants will reach "every corner of Australia" if the current outbreak is not kept in check.

What do you think about the increase in red fire ants? Can you think of any insects in Japan that are invasive? What do you think we should do to protect the environment from invasive species?

Thank you!