

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1066

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR Junior.

Today's topic is Violin lessons. Are you ready? Let's begin!

Many children in Japan take violin lessons. During these lessons, they sometimes learn to play difficult songs. Some children practice hard for many hours every day to take part in violin contests. Therefore, when they take part in contests they get better at playing the violin. I play the violin but never took part in music contest[s] before, so I would like to play at a contest someday.

That's all for today. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1066

Hey, everyone! Welcome back to the PR1 dictation challenge!

In recent months, reports of extreme weather have reached new levels. Some climate scientists say they cannot remember when the world had so much extreme weather.

In Brazil, for example, flooding killed at least 100 people and damaged the southern city of Porto Alegre. Voters and politicians in India are facing heat as high as 46 degrees Celsius during national elections.

A heat wave caused officials to close schools in the Philippines. Thailand has reported deaths from record heat. Weather experts are also reporting high heat in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives and Myanmar. Record temperatures hit many parts of Africa too.

In the United States, the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center recently put a message on social media service X. It said April had the second-highest number of tornadoes for that month ever recorded.

Thank you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1066

Hi, everyone! welcome back to PR 2!

Today I will talk about cherry blossoms in Japan. Let's begin!

The most commonly seen cultivar of cherry blossom today, 'Somei-yoshino', is said to be a relatively new cultivated breed. When was this cultivar born? Additionally, what types of cultivated cherry blossom cultivars exist in Japan, and approximately how many are there?

First, let me explain the history of cherry blossom cultivars in Japan. While it's true that wild cherry blossoms can be admired in their natural habitat, with the passage of time, there arose a desire for cultivars that were both more exquisite in appearance and easier to cultivate. This demand led to the emergence of cherry blossom cultivars.

The oldest cherry blossom cultivar is 'Pendula' – weeping cherry – with records of its cultivation dating back to the 10th to 11th century. Even today, very old 'Pendula' trees, which have been cultivated since that time, can still be found in tourist spots across the country, likely dating back over a thousand years.

From the 13th century, cherry blossoms were mainly confined to the gardens of the upper class, with the public only able to admire them from afar. However, by the 17th century, a trend resembling today's hanami – flower viewing – had emerged, as people deliberately set aside places to plant cherry blossoms for the express purpose of enjoying them.

That's all for today! See you!