

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1084

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

As some of you may know, the Euros 2024 started about a week ago!

Are any of you watching it? If you don't know, the Euros is an international football – or “soccer” – tournament like the World Cup, but only for countries in Europe.

This year, the Euros are being held in Germany, so in Japan the games are shown at one-10pm, 1am, and 4am. So, it is difficult to watch the matches live. Maybe we can see replays instead...?

See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1084

Hi there! Welcome back to PR1.

Take a listen to the story called “Snacks for Sailors.”

Crackers are a popular snack all over the world. There are many different shapes and flavors of crackers. Saltines are a very popular kind of cracker. They are square crackers with salt on them, and they also have many small holes.

Crackers were invented in 1792 by John Pearson. Pearson owned a bakery, and he wanted to make a kind of food for sailors. Sailors often took bread with them on ships, but the bread spoiled quickly. Pearson mixed flour and water together, and he baked it until it was very dry. He named his new food Pearson's Pilot Bread, but many sailors called it “hardtack.”

That's all for today. Please go to the next video for Part Two!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1084

Hello, PR2 students!

Today we will be discussing the confusing question of what is the appropriate way to address someone.

When discussing this topic in a training course, a German trainee and a British trainee got into a hot debate about whether it was appropriate for someone with a doctorate to use the corresponding title on their business card. The British trainee maintained that anyone who wasn't a medical doctor expecting to be addressed as 'Doctor' was disgustingly pompous and full of themselves. The German trainee, however, argued that the hard work and years of education put into earning that PhD should give them full rights to expect to be addressed as 'Doctor'.

This stark difference in opinion over something that could be conceived as minor and thus easily overlooked goes to show that we often attach meaning to even the most mundane practices. When things that we are used to are done differently, it could spark the strongest reactions in us. While many Continental Europeans and Latin Americans prefer to be addressed with a title, for example Mr. or Ms. and their surname when meeting someone in a business context for the first time, Americans, and increasingly the British, now tend to prefer using their first names. The best thing to do is to listen and observe how your conversation partner addresses you and, if you are still unsure, do not be afraid to ask them how they would like to be addressed

That's all for today!