

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 136

Hello, everyone!

Try to write down every word.

The children went to the stream. They looked at the swing. Wilf climbed on the swing. Chip pushed Wilf. Floppy looked at the rope. Biff climbed on the swing. Floppy barked and barked. Chip climbed on the swing. Floppy barked and barked and barked. Kipper went on the swing. "What a silly dog," said Kipper. The children went home. SPLASH!

Okay, guys, see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 136

Hey, guys! How's it going?

So last time, we learned that Darth Vader and the evil Emperor are planning to bring our hero, Luke Skywalker, over to the dark side of the Force. Let's catch up with Luke now...

Luke flies his X-Wing fighter to Dagobah to finish his Jedi training with Yoda. But Yoda's time is already up. The wise old Jedi master tells Luke he must confront Darth Vader. Just before Yoda fades away and becomes one with the Force, he whispers, "There is another Skywalker." Suddenly, the ghost of Obi-Wan Kenobi, Luke's first Jedi master, appears. He reveals that Princess Leia is really Luke's sister.

So, Luke and Leia are brother and sister? Another family-based twist!

Okay, guys, join me next time!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 136

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

Now, the coronavirus pandemic's biggest impact has perhaps been on independent businesses and artists. While a lot of large companies have mostly been okay, it's the restaurant owners, the musicians, and other performers that have really struggled due to all the widespread closures and cancellations. However, some big corporations have also supposedly suffered losses. Take a listen to this:

Walt Disney Company said on September 29th it will lay off roughly 28,000 employees, mostly at its U.S. theme parks, where attendance has been crushed by the coronavirus pandemic. About two-thirds of the laid-off employees will be part-time workers, the company said in a statement. Disney shut its theme parks worldwide when the novel coronavirus began spreading this year. All but Disneyland have reopened, though the company has been forced to limit visitor numbers to allow for physical distancing. Walt Disney World in Florida had employed 77,000 full- and part-time workers before the pandemic, while Disneyland in California employed 32,000.

Huh. Well, in another news story that broke the same week but isn't mentioned anywhere here, Disney said that it is going to restore the salaries of its senior executives to what they were before the pandemic. So, while thousands of regular employees are losing their jobs, the higher-up, already very rich employees get to keep all their money and potentially make more. Hmm, that doesn't really seem fair, does it? Maybe they're not actually struggling?

Hmm. Well, guys, as always – study hard, stay safe, and I'll see you soon.