

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 171

Hi, everyone! Welcome to PR Junior.

Today I will read this book: *Batman*.

The Gotham City Museum was having a big party. Bruce Wayne was invited. Bruce spotted a statue of a dragon. "That's an interesting statue," he said. Bruce had never seen anything like it before. Suddenly, the dragon statue came to life. It flew into the air and shot fire from its mouth.

What will happen? You'll have to wait and see!

See you next time! Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 171

Hey, guys! How's it going?

So last time, we started our new space adventure that takes place many years before the story of Luke Skywalker. Let's see what's happening to our new – or old – heroes, Qui-Gon Jinn and Obi-Wan Kenobi.

On Naboo, Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan meet a funny creature named Jar Jar Binks. Jar Jar takes them to the underwater city of the Gungans. The Gungan leader, Boss Nass, does not want to help Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan with their mission. But Boss Nass gives them a submarine and allows Jar Jar to guide the Jedi to the royal palace of Naboo. On their way through the planet's core, they are attacked by giant sea creatures.

Oh! So, these guys are already in a lot of danger! Let's see if they can make it out safely next time!

Okay, guys, see ya!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 171

Hey guys, how're you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

On the subject of staying safe, one of the biggest stories to hit the Japanese news cycle recently was the suspension of the "Go To Travel" campaign. I think this makes total sense, given the rapid increase of new coronavirus cases, which were probably largely due to the campaign itself. Take a listen to this brief summary:

Japan will suspend its "Go To Travel" subsidy program in areas with a high number of coronavirus cases, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said November 21st, in a policy reversal. Suga's approach has been criticized for focusing too much on stimulating the economy amid record numbers of infections. The decision was made as Japan confirmed more than 2,500 new daily cases of the novel coronavirus, marking a record high for the fourth day in a row, and a day after a government panel of medical experts proposed reviewing the campaign aimed at promoting domestic tourism.

Hmm, this line about the prime minister prioritizing boosting the economy over the health and safety of individual citizens is something that I've always been concerned about, and so I'm glad I'm not the only one who noticed. Of course, the "Go To Travel" campaign was important in helping various businesses and services stay afloat, but instead of subsidizing billions of yen in ticket sales and other fees, perhaps the government should have spent that money on a more effective salary-replacement scheme, which would have been much safer, as it wouldn't have involved encouraging people to travel around the country spreading the virus.

But what do you think? Please let me know, and, as always, study hard, stay safe, and I'll see you soon.