

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 174

Hello, everyone!

Let's continue reading *Stink*.

"Being short isn't all bad," said Dad. "You still get those free colouring books you like at the doctors."

"And the spider-man pajamas you love still fit you," said Mum.

"And you still get to use your baby step stool just to brush your teeth," said Judy.

Stink rolled his eyes.

Okay, everybody, I hope you liked it! I will see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 174

Hey, guys! How's it going?

So, last time in our prequel space adventure, our new heroes were trying to get to the Republic capital, but they were attacked on the way. Let's see what happens to them now...

The royal starship's hyperdrive is damaged. So, the heroes land on the desert planet Tatooine to make repairs. Qui-Gon, Obi-Wan, and Queen Amidala's handmaiden Padme find a new hyperdrive in a local junk shop. But they don't have money to pay Watto, the junk dealer. Padme meets Anakin Skywalker, a slave boy who works in the shop. Anakin can fix anything. And he is a skilled podracer.

Hmm... Anakin Skywalker. That name sounds familiar...

Well, join me next time, okay, guys? See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 174

Hello, everyone!

I hope you are all doing wonderful and staying safe.

Today, we [are] going to pick up where we left [off] [in] this book: the Keio University entrance exam. Are you ready?

The problem is almost certain to get worse, spreading to even more areas of life as bots are trained to become better at mimicking humans. Given the degree to which product reviews have been swamped by robots, which tend to hand out five stars with abandon, commercial sabotage in the form of negative bot reviews is not hard to predict.

So far we've been content to leave the problem to the tech industry, where the focus has been on building defences, usually in the form of Captchas ("completely automated public Turing test to tell computers and humans apart"), those annoying "type this" tests to prove you are not a robot. But leaving it all to industries is not a long-term solution. For one thing, the defences don't actually deter impersonation bots, but reward whoever can beat them. And perhaps the greatest problem for a democracy is that companies like Facebook and Twitter lack a serious financial incentive to do anything about matters of public concern. Twitter estimates at least 27 million probably fake accounts; researchers suggest the real number is closer to 48 million, yet the company does little about the problem.

Seems like this is a challenge we will be facing for years to come.

Okay, guys, take care and see you next time.