

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 180

Hey, Tim, do you have any plans for Christmas?

Ah, well, usually at Christmas time, I gather with my family or my close friends and we have a big meal with lots of delicious food, like turkey, and bacon and sausage, and potatoes, and then we open presents and maybe watch a Christmas movie together, and sometimes play some games, too.

But what about this year?

Ah. This year I will be spending Christmas entirely alone.

That sounds quite sad.

Yep.

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 180

Hey, guys! It's us again.

We are going to read another dialogue from an Eiken 2 listening test question, so see how much you can catch...

Alice's Music, Head Office, how can I help you?

Hi, I went to your downtown store this afternoon to get a CD, but I had trouble getting service from a clerk.

I apologize. Sometimes when the store is busy, the clerks can't help every customer immediately.

But it wasn't busy! The clerk was talking on the phone and I had to wait ten minutes before I could buy my CD!

Heh, it's funny. People don't really buy CDs anymore.

Well, CDs still sell quite well in Japan, actually.

Oh, really? Hmm. In England, most people just buy music online nowadays, instead of buying physical CDs.

...Hm.

Well, see you next time, guys!

Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 180

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

I have some more news here from the animal kingdom, which is usually a little bit more interesting, and at least not as heavy or tedious as the political stuff. Take a listen:

Migratory birds and mammals that expend lots of energy traveling long distances to chase food or find a choice nesting spot tend to live fast and die young, scientists reported November 17th. In a study published in Nature Communications, researchers found that migratory animals have a shorter lifespan than their homebody counterparts, but they compensate by having more offspring in less time. Analysing over 700 birds and 540 mammal species, the study determined that, from an evolutionary standpoint, neither strategy is “better” than the other. Migration can take place in the skies, underwater, or across different landscapes.

Ah! So, migratory animals might not live as long, but they achieve their purpose in life a little quicker, which I guess is the essence of the mantra, “live fast; die young”, which can be taken to mean that success is not necessarily determined by how long you live, but by how much you achieve in a shorter space of time. Although, literally dying young is not recommended.

Alright, guys, well on that note – and as always – study hard, stay safe (and healthy), and I'll see you soon.