

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 212

Hello, everyone!

Let's read the story of the Three Little Pigs today.

Once an old mother pig lived with her three little pigs. She did not have enough money to take care of them. So, she sent them out to live on their own. The first pig that went out met a man who had a bundle of straw.

"Please, sir! May I have that straw so that I can build a house?"

The man gave the pig the straw, and the little pig built a house.

That's all for today. Let's see what happens next time. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 212

Hey, guys! How's it going?

So last time, our Jedi heroes Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker fought against the treacherous Count Dooku – and lost! Will Count Dooku finish them off? Let's see what happens...

Just then, Yoda arrives! The powerful Jedi master is more than a match for Count Dooku. Realizing he can't win, the Sith lord sends a massive column crashing down toward Obi-Wan and Anakin. Yoda saves the two young Jedi just in time, but Count Dooku escapes to fight another day.

So, Dooku got away again! Hopefully our heroes will be more prepared – and more powerful – next time they face him.

Okay, guys, see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 212

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

Now, one of the biggest fears surrounding the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic was the economic devastation it would wreak on, well, the whole world, which, I guess, is why many governments, including Japan's, focused more on stimulating the economy, rather than trying to keep their case numbers down. Of course, a lot of businesses and local economies did suffer, but that might not necessarily be the case here. Take a listen to this:

The number of corporate bankruptcies in Japan dropped to the lowest in 31 years in 2020, aided by government financial support amid the novel coronavirus pandemic, data released by a credit research company showed January 13th. Business failures with debts of at least ten million yen fell 7.3 percent from 2019 to 7,773, the lowest since 1989, when 7,234 firms went bankrupt, and the first decline in two years, according to data from Tokyo Shoko Research. The total includes 792 bankruptcies attributed to the pandemic. The drop reflects the impact of government measures including interest-free loans without collateral that helped firms reeling amid the pandemic.

So, where most countries would expect to see a rise in the number of bankruptcies in 2020 compared with any previous year, Japan actually had fewer – and, therefore, higher corporate success. Of course, that's a good thing, but doesn't it also suggest that the Japanese government needn't have been so corporation-focused at the expense of effectively protecting the individual? Let me know what you think, okay, guys?

Alright, well, until next time – and as always – study hard, stay safe, and I'll see you soon.