

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 224

Hi, guys!

Welcome to PR Junior! Marley is back with more adventures. Let's continue.

Mommy put Marley outside. "We need a break," she said.

Marley howled. It was a sad sound. "Maybe they don't love me anymore," he thought.

Marley started to dig. He dug until he could slip under the fence. Then, Marley ran away.

He ran past the school and the park. He ran far away from everything and everyone he loved.

Oh, no. Poor Marley! I wonder what will happen next...

See you then!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 224

Hello, everyone!

I hope you're all staying safe and sound during this pandemic.

Today, I'll be reading a text using Eiken level three vocabulary. Let's have a listen.

By 1950, Ray Bradbury's works already appeared in magazines, but he wanted to write a novel. In 1950, he got a good idea for a story. In it, all the world's books were burned. He usually wrote at home, but his children were very loud. He didn't want to write it there so he used a typewriter in the library. When he was busy with his writing, Bradbury's friends helped him. It cost ten cents to use a typewriter for thirty minutes. He spent nine dollars and 80 cents until he finished it. It was around 25,000 words long. This became his most famous novel, *Fahrenheit 451*.

Wow. I wonder how long nine dollars and 80 cents on a typewriter is.

Thanks for listening! And I'll see you next time. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 224

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

I have a news story here that might be a bit of a morose topic, but it's related to something that often comes up in conversations about Japan among foreigners living both inside and outside of Japan, so it may be worth hearing. Take a listen:

The number of crimes recorded in Japan in 2020 hit the lowest level in the postwar era for the sixth straight year, with a sharp decline in street crime as people stayed home during the coronavirus pandemic, police data showed February 4th. However, the number of consultations on domestic violence and cybercrime reached record-high levels, according to the National Police Agency data. Overall, there were 614,303 crime cases in Japan last year, down 17.9 percent from the 2019 figure – the fastest pace of decline on record.

Oh! Well, a sharp fall in Japan's already low crime rate is, of course, a good thing, but the issue – and accuracy – of Japan's crime rate is, as I say, often called into question. Everybody says that Japan is a relatively safe country and while that is mostly true, it is also suggested that a lot of small crimes go unreported and that larger crimes sometimes get overlooked. Hmm, that would certainly be a serious issue. If you've ever heard anything about that then let me know, okay?

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