

**Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 229**

Hi, everyone!

Welcome back to PR Junior!

Remember that Marley sneezed last time? Well, because of that, he also jumped and bumped into the table...

Flour, cakes, and cookies went everywhere. Then, the baker came back.

“My cookies! My cakes!” yelled the baker. “And there was no answer at your house.”

Oh, no. Marley made a big mess again! I hope his family finds him soon.

See you next time!

**Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 229**

Hello, everyone! How are you doing today?

Today, I'm going to read a short text about how people traveled in the past, and why lighthouses were so important. Let's have a listen.

About two hundred years ago, there [were] no airplanes or trains in the United States, so people used ships to travel. Some areas were very dangerous for ships, so lighthouses were built in these places. At night, people on ships knew they had to be careful when they saw the light on top of a lighthouse. The people who took care of lighthouses were called lighthouse keepers and their job was very important.

So, in the past, lighthouses were used to guide ships away from underwater rocks and lead them to safety. Now, it seems like they're just a popular destination for tourists. Have you ever visited a lighthouse before?

Thank you for listening! And that's all for today. Bye-bye!

**Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 229**

Hello, everyone! How are you doing?

Today, I have a text on cockroaches. Let's have a listen.

Cockroaches must be one of the least popular insects in the world. Although in some cultures they're considered edible, probably no one finds them lovable. Indeed, they're usually regarded as, at best, annoying pests and, at worst, filthy carriers of disease. Such is the discomfort they cause that people spend large amounts of money on poisoning them in hope of banishing them from their homes. Of course, cockroaches are very tough. Even if the common idea that they would survive a nuclear war may not be strictly true, they can survive fifteen times the radiation that human beings can. But is such persecution of cockroaches advisable? Would the wholesale elimination of such creatures be a good idea?

In fact, there are people who stick up for cockroaches. One such defender is Srinu Khambhampati, an expert in cockroaches at the University of Texas. He points out that, from the point of view of ecology, the complete loss of the world's 4,500 species of cockroaches would have many negative effects. For a start, cockroaches are an important element in the diet of assorted small mammals such as rats and mice. Moreover, by eating and digesting decaying plants, they release nitrogen into the soil, which is essential for the growth of new plants. The health of the world's forests actually hinges on cockroaches. This is a useful reminder of the importance of all parts of the ecosystem and suggests that perhaps we should reconsider our attitude to the lowly cockroach.

Hmm, that's pretty interesting! Well, that's all for today, and I'll see you next time. Bye-bye!