

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 231

Hello, everyone! How are you doing?

Today, I would like you to meet my friend Max!

Max is a dog. He is three years old. Max likes to sleep, eat and play. Max's favorite food is dog food. Max loves going on walks and playing in the water. Max's favorite toy is a tennis ball. Max says he wants to be friends with you! Will you be Max's friend?

That's all for today and I'll see you next time. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 231

Hello, everyone! How are you doing?

Today, I have a text about where credit cards came from. Let's have a listen.

The Diner's Club credit card was the first credit card that people could use at many different stores. It was not made of plastic but of paper. It started when Frank McNamara, the head of a bank, met his lawyer and a friend for a meal at a restaurant in New York in 1949. They had a discussion about a man who borrowed some money from McNamara's bank. The man was too poor to return the money. At the end of the meeting, McNamara tried to pay the bill, but he couldn't because he forgot his wallet at home. That's when he imagined the credit card. Now it can be used almost everywhere.

That's all for today. Thank you for listening and I hope I'll see you next time. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 231

Hello, everyone! How are you doing?

Today, I have a text about senior organisms. Let's find out what they are.

All living creatures are mortal, but the length of [their] lifespans varies a great deal. On average, human beings live about 70 years, but some insects die after only 30 minutes, while whales have been known to live for 200 years. Many trees, though, live considerably longer than any animals, dragging out their lives for hundreds and even thousands of years. In fact, according to a register of trees kept by ecologist Christopher Earle, the oldest known living organism on this planet is a bristlecone pine tree in the mountains of California, which is 4,841 years old. This phenomenal antiquity is partly due to the high altitude and freezing winters, which slow the tree's growth down and lengthen its life. Other bristlecone pines may be older, but wear and tear has by degrees removed their outer rings, making their true age difficult to determine. Botany has shown that some trees, in a sense, live even longer. That is because they produce duplicates of themselves, each with identical genes to its parent. In Sweden, a spruce tree has been found that has lived as a series of clones for 9,550 years. Even more staggeringly, a group of quaking aspen trees in southern Utah is estimated to date back some 80,000 years, although the individual trees only live to about 75. If one counts genetic clones as the same tree, then such trees, as long as they dodge destruction by human beings or natural disasters, could be said to live forever.

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