

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 240

Hi, everyone!

Welcome to PR Junior!

Today, I will talk to you about my friend, Jane.

Jane is a university student in Tokyo. She studies Japanese. She loves to take walks and eat.

Last Saturday, a new restaurant opened near her apartment. So, she went there at twelve o'clock. The restaurant was big and beautiful. She ate a hamburger for lunch. She enjoyed it very much.

So, could you hear the story? Let me know!

Have a nice day, and I'll see you next time. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 240

Hey, guys! How's it going?

So last time, after turning Anakin to the Dark Side, the evil Sith lord Darth Sidious put himself in charge of the new Galactic Empire. Things don't look good for our heroes...

Obi-Wan knows Anakin has turned to evil and must be stopped. He stows away on Padme's ship as she flies to her husband. On the volcanic planet Mustafa, Padme sees what Anakin has become.

"You're breaking my heart!" Padme tells her husband.

So, Anakin was seduced by the dark side of the Force because he wanted to save Padme's life, but ironically – and tragically – it is his evil deeds that might destroy her.

See you next time.

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 240

Hello, everyone! How are you doing?

Last time, in that text about animal languages, we learned that some animals are smart enough to learn human languages, such as American Sign Language or even English. However, it seems like some scientists still aren't convinced that animals are capable of learning languages. Let's find out why:

A famous critique of the assertion that animals can learn languages, however, was made by animal scientist Herbert Terrace, using his own work with a chimpanzee. He argued that scientists confuse animal behavior with language. They distort the evidence by interpreting behavior on the analogy of human language, disregarding more economical explanations. Closer inspection of the alleged use of language, however, suggests that animals simply learn that using a certain sign leads to a certain reward. There is nothing informative about the behavior and it does not express concepts like human language. Terrace's argument was widely influential and led many animal scientists to become much more cautious in their claims about animal abilities.

Well, it seems like I won't be able to teach my cat how to speak English. That's too bad. Well, that's all for today, and I'll see you next time. Bye-bye!