

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 272

Hello, everyone! How are you doing?

Today, I have a text about the “cool kids”. Let’s begin:

There are cool kids at my school. The cool kids sit together at lunch. They wear cool, new clothes and have cool haircuts. They listen to cool music and they know cool dances. They have many friends. But why are they “cool kids”? They are never sad. However, are cool kids nice to other people? Not all the time.

Well, that’s all for today! Bye-bye.

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 272

Hey, guys! How’s it going?

Do you know the famous detective character, Sherlock Holmes? And his partner, Doctor Watson? Well, one time, Sherlock and Watson went camping. They put their simple tent up underneath the stars and went to bed. In the middle of the night, Sherlock woke up and looked up at the night sky. He said to Watson, “Watson, look up. And tell me what you see.”

Watson said, “I see a sky full of millions of twinkling suns.”

And Sherlock said, “And what can we deduce from this?”

Watson said, “Well, if there are millions and millions of other suns, and if some of those suns have at least one or two planets, then it is quite possible that somewhere out there some other form of life exists.”

And Sherlock said, “No, Watson, you fool. It means somebody has stolen our tent!”

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 272

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

I have a news story here relating to coronavirus safety measures, so take a listen:

Japan's powerful business lobby said it is lifting the ban it introduced on the use of hand dryers in restrooms at offices and production sites, after concluding the risk of them spreading the coronavirus is negligible. The update to the guidelines for its more than 1,400 member companies came after Keidanren, based on multiple experiments and simulations, found the risk of infection from water drops in the air after handwashing is "extremely low" even when hand dryers are used. The change applies to offices and factories.

Hmm. Well, I agree with the idea that removing hand dryers isn't necessarily an effective means of significantly reducing the rate of infection – at least not compared to, say, giving people a financial incentive to stay home – but even before the pandemic, hand dryers have been proven to be less hygienic than using some kind of paper towel, which I prefer anyway, as it doesn't involve standing in place for thirty seconds, cupping warm air, before eventually walking away with still-mostly-wet hands. So, maybe instead of reintroducing hand dryers during the third state of emergency, they should just introduce paper towels instead. But let me know what you think, okay?

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