

**Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 281**

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, I have a self-introduction between two people. Let's take a listen:

What's your name?

I'm Hanako. My friends call me Hana.

That's a nice name. What does it mean?

It means 'flower child' in Japanese. What is your name?

My name is Chiaki. The kanji characters for my name mean 'thousand autumns'.

I love your name! Nice to meet you.

Nice to meet you, too.

Well, that's all for today and we'll see you in class. Bye-bye!

**Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 281**

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, I have a conversation. Take a listen.

How many people are in your family?

There are three people in my family. My mother, my father, and me. So, I am an only child. I get along well with my parents. We never argue about anything.

What do your parents do?

My father used to work for a construction company, but now he's retired. My mother has always been a housewife. What about you?

Oh, I'm an only child, too. My parents have a farm in the country.

That sounds cool! I'd like to visit one day.

Well, that's all for today and we'll see you in class. Bye-bye!

**Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 281**

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I have a conversation between two people about the Gobi Desert. Let's take a listen:

Did you see that documentary about the Gobi Desert last night?

The Gobi Desert? Where's that?

It's a cold desert that occupies a huge arc of land across Mongolia and China. The program was about how fast (that) it is expanding.

Why is it doing that?

Because of desertification. Relatively deserted areas of dryland become populated with people displaced from their original homes. The [conversion] of wild land to agricultural land involves the clearance of local vegetation. As trees and bushes are uprooted, the lack of humidity means that the water in the soil evaporates. Meanwhile, the excessive cultivation of crops robs the soil of its fertility, creating more and more sterile land.

That's so irresponsible. It must be destroying the habitats of so much wildlife, too. Can governments do anything about it?

The Chinese government is trying, but so far to little avail. They're planting a Great Wall of Trees to stop the desert devouring any more fertile land. Hopefully, even if the restoration of fertility to the land is impossible, this will prevent the problem from escalating further.

Yes, let's hope so.

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