

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 293

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to Inter Tomas. How are you?

Today, I am going to ask you a question. Are you ready?

An octopus has nine brains: is it true? What do you think?

It's true! An octopus has one brain in its body and eight little brains in its arms. Each octopus arm can work out what to do by itself.

Next time, I will ask you another question. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 293

Hey, guys! How's it going?

So, one time, a young man got a new job with the Coast Guard. His job was to monitor the radio for incoming distress signals from boats or ships that needed help. He was very nervous on his first day, but his new boss told him that those calls are very rare. However, later that day, he got a call coming through: "Mayday! Mayday! Help us! Help us! We're sinking! We're sinking!"

The young man's English was not so good, so he wasn't sure how to respond. Again the call came: "Help us! Help us! We're sinking! We're sinking!"

Finally, the young man said, "What are you sinking about?"

Pronunciation is important ;)

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 293

Hello, everyone! How are you doing?

Welcome back to PR2. Today, I have the second part of the text about the Spanish flu.

Take a listen:

Although the epidemic coincided with the First World War, the war did not cause it. It may, though, have made it worse. The adverse conditions in the army, where soldiers suffered from fatigue and vitamin deficiencies, probably made them more vulnerable to exposure to the virus. Moreover, soldiers who fell sick were rounded up and concentrated in military hospitals, spreading the flu to other patients. Indeed, more American soldiers died from the flu than on the battlefield. Any infectious [disease] will pass through an army quickly, especially one weakened by physical exhaustion. One modern historian has actually put forward the controversial theory that the flu helped to bring the war to an end.

Nowadays, scientists who have studied (the) specimens of the Spanish flu suggest it may have weakened the lungs, leading to infection by dangerous bacteria. The Spanish flu was a terrible warning of the dangers of viral infections, and the fact that it has not made more impact on our historical memory remains puzzling.

Hmm, well that sounds oddly familiar doesn't it?

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