

**Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 296**

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, I have another true [or] false questions for you. Let's begin:

True or false: a hippopotamus makes its own sunscreen. That can't be true... or can it?

It's true! Hippopotamuses make their own sunscreen. It is red and it sweats out through their skin.

Wow! Did you know that? How cool would it be if we could make our own sunscreen, too?

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

**Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 296**

Hey, guys! How's it going?

Another one of the questions I often get asked during conversation practice is "What's your favourite food?" I think many of you already know my usual answer to that question, but one of my favourite kinds of foods – or "cuisines" – is Mexican food. For me, Mexican food involves burritos, tacos, and big plates of nachos. I really like the combination of sweet, sour, and spicy flavours that come with the tomato, the cheese, the peppers, the guacamole, and the tangy hot sauce you can add.

Do you like Mexican food, too? Let me know if you want any recommendations of good Mexican restaurants in Tokyo!

Alright, guys, see you next time!

## Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 296

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I have a text about identifying old, expensive paintings. Take a listen:

Recently, in London, an art expert declared a painting depicting a young woman to be a previously unknown work by the renowned Renaissance artist, Leonardo da Vinci. This is one of a series of recent discoveries of new works by famous artists. But how do art experts identify paintings in this way? In fact, this was an unusual case. The expert, Canadian Peter Paul Biro, used a sophisticated camera to discover a fingerprint. He then found the same fingerprint on another Leonardo painting in Rome. Though his claim is not indisputable, the art world has been convinced.

Originally, in Europe, the identity of paintings was not so important, but from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, wealthy people began to collect works by famous artists. Paintings became valuable commodities. Collectors increasingly enlisted the help of art experts in order to weed out the fakes from the genuine works. These experts were just people knowledgeable about art. They would pore over paintings, looking for clues that would allow them to eliminate and discard copies. They used their eyes to gauge the genuineness of paintings and to assess their value.

Well, that's all for today and come back next time for part two. Bye-bye!