

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 298

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to Inter-Tomas!

Today, I am going to talk to you about chickens.

Would you like a pet that lives outside? If so, a chicken might be your perfect pet. Chickens like to be busy. They scratch in the dirt looking for bugs to eat. Chickens like to have a bath... in the dust! This is how they look after their feathers.

See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 298

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, I have a text about a very rare species of mushroom. Keep an ear out for how that mushroom has been used since ancient times.

Red reishi is a rare kind of mushroom. A natural medicine is made from it but it tastes bitter. This medicine is popular in Japan and China. Japanese and Chinese people have used red reishi for over two thousand years. People believe that it protects the body from diseases and is good for one's health. A new way to grow those mushrooms was discovered in Japan in the 1970s. People who believe in red reishi take this medicine every day.

Well, do you know someone who takes red reishi every day?

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

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 298

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I have the second part of the text about identifying old paintings. Take a listen:

Of course, such intuitive methods were hardly [conclusive]; many earlier identifications are now doubted. In addition, sometimes such experts were closely linked to people dealing in paintings and there were some cases of actual fraud, where customers were taken in by crooked experts. In order to facilitate more objective judgements people turned to modern technology to help them discriminate more accurately between genuine and fake works.

Most experts place great emphasis on the provenance of paintings, a documentary record of previous owners. Yet, such evidence itself can be faked and so by itself it is rarely decisive or compelling. Rather, the most an expert can do is to coordinate various pieces of evidence so as to make a credible case for the genuineness of the painting. Even so, a consensus of opinion about any particular painting is hard to obtain. Some people will always feel dubious and there are persistent rumors of deception by art dealers who cater to wealthy customers. As long as paintings by famous painters continue to be worth enormous amounts of money, it seems unlikely that disputes over the identity of paintings will ever completely disappear.

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