

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 317

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to Inter-Tomas!

Today, I am going to talk to you more about food chains.

Every link in a food chain is important. Grass is important to lions even though they don't eat it. This food chain starts with grass. Zebras are herbivores. They eat grass. Without grass, zebras wouldn't have anything to eat and they would die. Lions are carnivores. They eat zebras. Without zebras and other herbivores, the lions wouldn't have anything to eat either.

This is all for today. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 317

Hey, guys!

Alzheimer's is a disease related to memory loss and it is notorious for its incurability. But the company Biogen made a drug for Alzheimer's disease, which is the first drug which could possibly cure people who suffer from the disease. It is also the first new drug in eighteen years. Some people were excited, while others said that more tests were needed to prove that the drug was safe. The cost of the drug is 56,000 dollars per year for one person, which could make one billion dollars for Biogen in 2022. The hope is that there will be more drugs like this, which will bring down the cost, and that researchers find other cheaper treatments.

'Til next time! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 317

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I have a text about something that the U.S. is facing right now. Let's take a listen:

The U.S. needs to cultivate a steady supply of young engineers and scientists if it is to compete successfully in today's globalized world. For some time now, though, alarming evidence of the inadequate number of such specialists being produced by its educational system has been accumulating. Although there seem to be encouraging signs that more students are becoming interested in science in high school, these are deceptive. This is because of the very high number of dropouts from science and engineering courses at college.

Why do so many of these students abandon their majors? One answer is the hurdle of compulsory but difficult classes that faces apprentice scientists and engineers when they are freshmen. These lectures are often of such complexity that they are often incomprehensible to many of the students. Perplexed and bewildered by the inherent difficulty of what they are being taught, such students quickly weary of the laborious grind of preparing for their classes and examinations. At present, about 40 percent of students who plan to major in science or engineering either switch to other majors or fail to graduate.

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