

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 322

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to Inter-Tomas!

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

There is a pattern in food chains. A carnivore, such as a lion or a fox, is usually at the top of a food chain. This is because these animals are excellent hunters, or predators. The grizzly bear is a predator. But this food chain does not end with the grizzly bear! No, a food chain never ends! When a grizzly bear dies, it is eaten by bugs in the ground. They break it down in the soil, and make it into food for the plants. Then the chain starts again!

This is all for today, see you next time.

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 322

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, I have the second part of the story about writing a school report. Let's begin:

"We're going to fail because of me," Lee said. He put his head down on the table and said, "I wish I could see a planet instead of having to read about it."

Suddenly, there was a bright light. Lee was pulled from his chair, through the roof, and right into a strange ship.

"Hello, kid," said an alien. "Did you ask for help?"

Lee told the friendly alien all about his project. The alien agreed to help Lee solve his problem.

"First, we'll fly through space to view the universe. Then, I can help you make a model of my planet."

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

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 322

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I have a text talking about the connection between creativity and mental illness.

Take a listen:

According to an old English saying, “genius is next to madness.” Indeed, there are many anecdotes about the turbulent inner lives of people famous for their creativity, from mathematicians to artists, which seem to illustrate just such a link. But is there any hard evidence for the idea that there is a correlation between having a fertile mind and mental illness? Recently, scientists have begun to try to clarify this issue, and they have started to produce some undeniable evidence of a connection. They are also beginning to be able to spell out the processes in the brain which explain this connection.

The mental disabilities most commonly associated with creativity are mood disorders, such as bipolar disorder, a condition where a descent into desperate depression will commonly be followed by a period of irrational happiness. During the alteration from the first to the second mood, sufferers often become acutely inventive. Word association tests, for example, show that the number of associations they produce far exceeds the number produced by ordinary people. This connection between intellectual ability and mood disorders was verified by a Swedish study, which demonstrated that abnormally intelligent 16-year-olds were over three times more likely to develop bipolar disorder as adults.

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