

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 330

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to Inter Tomas.

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

Ella was at a riding school. She was very excited. She was going to ride a pony, and look after it all day. But which one? Meg showed her Cracker. His coat was brown and white. He had a black mane. Here is a fact: A pony can be up to one hundred forty-eight centimeters high from the ground to the top of its back.

This is all for today. See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 330

Hey, guys! How's it going?

Have any of you had your first COVID-19 vaccine?

I imagine it will still be a while for most of you. Although, some of your parents might have already had one or even two vaccines. I got my first vaccine last week. That's still pretty late compared to my friends in other countries, but pretty early compared to most of my friends here in Japan. I thought I wouldn't get the vaccine until much later, so I'm quite pleasantly surprised! I was a little nervous, but I didn't feel anything at that time; just a little bit of muscle pain the next day.

I heard that the second vaccine might be a bit worse, but it'll be worth it to be fully vaccinated. So, I'm looking forward to it! ...I guess.

Let's hope we can all get vaccinated soon, yeah?

Alright, guys, see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 330

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I have a conversation between two people talking about where they went on the weekend. Take a listen:

Hi, Jane. Did you have a good weekend?

Great, thanks. We visited a place called Walsingham in Norfolk.

I've heard of it. Isn't famous because Catholic pilgrims used to go there to worship some deceased saint?

Well, it was actually part of the cult of the Virgin Mary. A pious medieval aristocrat had a vision of Mary and built a shrine to her. It became famous throughout Europe. It is mentioned in lots of inscriptions in other churches.

Wow, I bet it became pretty luxurious, then.

It did. With the donations from the pilgrims, two big monastic houses were built, as well as a majestic shrine. The shrine had quite an inventory of relics, including a sample of Mary's milk!

Are the buildings still there?

No, when England became Protestant, Henry VIII decided to dissolve the monasteries. He ordered and forced the closure of the site. All the buildings were torn down and the shrine was vandalized. The abbot was forced to accept demotion to become a mere servant of the king.

That's pretty tragic. I guess Henry wanted the wealth for himself.

That's a bit cynical, but certainly many people were upset at the destruction of the shrine.

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