

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 336

Hello! Welcome to PR Junior.

Today, I will talk about my friend, Lucy.

She is fifteen years old. She goes to Inter-Tomas High School. She goes to school by train. Her favourite colour is yellow. She always puts on a yellow hat. There are four people in her family: mother, father, and a little sister, Mary. Mary likes purple. She goes to Inter-Tomas elementary school and she is in the fifth grade. She goes to school by bus.

That's all for today. See you later!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 336

Hey, guys! How's it going?

One of the questions I often ask my students, both in the lesson and as a My Story topic, is "What's your favourite place?"

One of my favourite places around Tokyo is a small park in Ikebukuro. It's not really a park and more of just a single square area of grass – but it's really nice grass that you're actually allowed to sit on, which is pretty rare in Tokyo. Usually, the grass is too long and weedy, or it's mostly just bare patches of dirt. And if the grass is nice and short, it's usually roped off so you can't even go on it! I was, therefore, pretty pleased and surprised when I first found that place.

Do you know of any similar spots around Tokyo? Let me know, okay?

Alright, guys, see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 336

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I have the first part of a text called "Rethinking the four-year college degree". Let's begin:

At most U.S. colleges and universities, it takes four years to complete a bachelor's degree. Students are required to follow a rigorous schedule of homework, independent study, and preparation for midterm and final exams. During the three-month summer breaks they are free to pursue extracurricular activities or study-abroad programs. Indeed, it is often claimed that one of the greatest benefits of the current four-year system is that it allows young people to develop the depth of knowledge and the character required to assume the responsibilities of work and society.

Recently, however, there have been calls to shorten the bachelor's requirement to three years. Senator Lamar Alexander proposes this be accomplished by eliminating summer vacations. He notes the U.S. higher education system is the same as it was 200 years ago, when "we were a nation of farmers, and students put their books away to work the soil during the summer." He adds that colleges would benefit by keeping campuses open year-round, as they could collect additional tuition fees.

Hmm. Well, come back next time for part two. See you again! Bye-bye!