

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 342

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.
Let me tell you about the past and the present.

We have machines in our homes to do jobs for us. Long ago, people's homes were different from ours. They did not have very many machines then. All the family had to help do the housework. We have dishwashers to wash and dry the dishes. Long ago, everybody had to help with that job.

That is all for today. See you next time, and goodbye!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 342

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.
I'm back in Australia, and I'm under quarantine at a hotel. So, I want to tell you a little about the current coronavirus situation here. Let's begin:

Recently, the coronavirus outbreak in Sydney reached record levels. There were 239 new cases announced in New South Wales on the 29th of July, the highest one-day total for Australia. Sydney is already in its fifth week of a nine-week lockdown, which is scheduled to end on the 28th of August. Authorities have said Sydney's lockdown will not ease until cases in the community are near zero.

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

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 342

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I have the second and last part of the text called “Rethinking the Four-Year College Degree”. Let’s begin:

University of Pennsylvania Professor of Education Robert Zemsky agrees that a three-year system would be preferable. His argument is that obtaining a good job in many fields increasingly requires a master’s degree, so the faster a student can get into graduate school the better. In addition, he says, a three-year program would reduce students’ expenses by 25 percent. Rather than forcing students to study year-round, however, Zemsky proposes simply reducing the number of credits needed to graduate. In order to facilitate this change, he suggests adapting the final year of high school. He wants high schools to have special curriculums that offer students “truly challenging courses” to prepare them for three-year degree programs.

There has been opposition to these proposals. Critics worry that a three-year college program would give students less time to decide on a career path and limit their opportunities for personal development. They are also concerned that extra pressure on teaching staff might lead to course options being reduced, making programs less attractive to students. Furthermore, students in three-year programs would likely have fewer chances to get into classes taught by famous professors. Despite these possible drawbacks, Alexander believes a three-year program would appeal to the brightest, most motivated students. He notes that even now, such students often complete their four-year degrees early by packing more courses into each semester.

Well, what do you think? That’s all for today, and I’ll see you in class. Bye-bye!