

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 386

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, I am going to tell you a story about a field trip. Let's begin:

Mr. Green took his class away for the week. They went to a big house called Sunny House. Mrs. Benson went, too. The children were excited. Sunny House was near the sea and there were lots of interesting things to do. Everyone unloaded the bus.

"Some of the bags and cases are heavy," said Mr. Green. "We are only here for a week!"

That is all for today. See you next time. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 386

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today I have a story called, *The Starfish*. Let's begin.

Last summer I took a trip to an island. I sat and watched the waves and listened to the ocean. I discovered new things and indulged in a lot of delicious foods. It was a very nice time.

One evening I took a walk by the ocean. When the waves came in, many starfish fell on the beach. Some starfish went back into the water, and they were safe. But other starfish were still on the sand. They would die if they did not get back into the water. There were many starfish on the beach that night. I stepped very carefully around them.

Well, that's all for today and come back for the second half of this story. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 386

Welcome back to PR2!

This is part two of "The Aging Population". Let's begin:

During the twentieth century, life expectancies around the world increased by one third. Today, a girl born in a developed country can expect to live well into her 80's, and a boy until his early 80's. Meanwhile, since the beginning of the 1950's, global birth rates have halved. The populations of developing countries will keep growing for several more decades because of the numbers of young people still to reach childbearing age, but the populations of Europe and the rich countries of Asia will shrink and age. The main consequence will be an increased burden on workers. At present, in developed countries there are about three workers for every pensioner. As the baby boomer generation begins to hit retirement age, the ratio* will fall dramatically. By 2030 it is expected to average 1.5 to one, and in Germany and Italy it will be one to one or lower. A distinguished economist has recently written that "we are confronting such great changes in terms of population that they could redefine economic and political systems in the developed countries over the next generation."

That's it for part two. See you in part three!

* pronounced "ray-shio"