

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 387

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Last time, I told you that I play a little piano, but I can also play some other instruments, too. I can play some very, very basic beats on the drums, and I can play simple songs on the bass, but my main instrument is the electric guitar. I started playing when I was thirteen years old and I think I became pretty good. But I don't play so much now, so I think I'm not so good these days.

Do any of you play guitar? See you, guys!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 387

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today we're going to learn about creativity. Let's go:

Good fantasy story writers are very creative. They like to include imaginary things in their stories. J.K Rowling and J.R.R Tolkien both put some very imaginative ideas into their stories. J.K Rowling made the Harry Potter stories exciting by including some amazing spells. Spells are pieces of magic used by wizards and witches. To use them, they usually say some special words and wave a magic wand. Some examples of spells include "*Engorgio*", which makes things get bigger, and "*Expelliarmus*", a spell that causes someone's wand to fly out of his or her hand. Another spell, "*Alohomora*", opens locked doors.

That is all for today. Thank you for listening and goodbye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 387

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

Now, the coronavirus pandemic is still very much a current and serious global issue. But, very generally speaking, it seems like the situation on the whole is getting a little better – at least when you consider the number of vaccinations and the fact that a lot of countries have already opened up again. But it also looks like there may be another step towards eradicating this virus on the horizon, so take a listen to this:

Brazilian researchers have found that a molecule in the venom of a type of snake inhibited coronavirus reproduction in monkey cells, a possible first step towards a drug to combat the virus causing COVID-19. A study published in the scientific journal *Molecules* in August found that the molecule produced by the jararacussu pit viper inhibited the virus's ability to multiply in monkey cells by 75%. The molecule is a peptide, or chain of amino acids, that can connect to an enzyme of the coronavirus PLPro without hurting other cells. The enzyme it connects to is vital to the virus's reproduction. The jararacussu is one of the largest snakes in Brazil.

Ah, yes, I've never really heard of this snake before, but I know that the green anaconda is also native to Brazil, so I wonder how big this snake is in comparison to that.

Well, guys, until next time – and as always – study hard, stay safe, and I'll see you soon.