

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 398

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Now that we are already in the middle of autumn, it means the leaves are starting to change. I think my favorite thing about autumn is all the beautiful colors that the trees become. Here in Kunitachi, there are actually a lot of those trees, but do you know any other good spots around Tokyo for seeing the autumn colors? Please let me know, okay? I want to take some nice pictures!

Okay, guys, see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 398

Hi everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

This is the second half of the text about global warming. Let's begin!

So what is causing global warming? Human activity is making levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere rise. Burning fossil fuels like coal and oil and cutting down trees are examples of this. It is making the earth warmer than it should be.

In the next hundred years, the earth could become a lot warmer. The ice at the poles, or the most northern and southern points of the earth, could melt. This will make the sea level rise and many cities could be flooded. Many kinds of animals and plants could become extinct – meaning they die out forever.

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

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 398

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I have a text called, 'A new science city'. Take a listen.

Russia has a long and proud scientific tradition, but this tradition has not always added up to economic success. Under the centralized socialist system of the former USSR, when most of the economy was in state ownership, scientific research was often carried out in 'science cities'. These were usually 'closed cities', where scientists and technicians lived behind barricades guarded by soldiers. Strict censorship was enforced, allowing the government to cover up even the existence of these cities. Officially, this was to prevent spying, but the scientists were also separated from ordinary Soviet citizens. This was because they were allocated generous state funding and given access to foreign luxuries that most people never even saw.

After the collapse of the USSR and Russia adoption of the capitalist system, most of the closed cities were abolished. However, the new Russia has not always been successful at cashing in on its scientific strengths. Although many state enterprises have been privatized, the bureaucracy has not always had a good relationship with entrepreneurs, who complain of petty regulations and arbitrary tax policies. Due to this, Russia remains economically dependent on its enormous natural resources, such as oil and gas. It has also fallen far behind its western competitors in the field of information technology.

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