

**Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 403**

Hello, everyone. Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, I will be reading you a story about a pumpkin. Let's begin.

Late one day in fall, Daddy, Cindy, and Baby Louis went out to the garden to look at their pumpkin. All summer and fall, the family tended the pumpkin. All summer and fall, they kept their big puppy, Lily out of the garden.

Okay, that is all for today. See you next time! Bye-bye.

**Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 403**

Hey, guys. How's it going?

So last time, Ivor and his driver attended their village's choir practice with the red hot stone still in Ivor's fire box. Let's see what happens next.

TAP, TAP, TAP. Evans tapped on his music stand. "Just a moment please!"

The choir stopped singing but from somewhere, a fine voice continued the song.

"Somebody is still singing!" said Evans. He looked around. It was almost as if the singing came from inside Ivor's engine.

"The thing!" shouted Jones. He whipped open Ivor's fire door.

"What thing?" asked Evans the Song.

"It's broken, look!" said Jones. On the red-hot coal they saw a heap of pieces, just like the shell of a huge egg.

Oh, like an egg? Does that mean that that stone was actually a...?

Let's find out next time. See you guys!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 403

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I have a little more on the 'New Science City'. Take a listen.

Now, the Russian government has come up with an ambitious new strategy designed to improve its standing in information technology. The aim is to reproduce the success of California's famous Silicon Valley on Russian soil. The government's plan is to create its first new science city since the fall of the USSR, one specializing in advanced technology. This time, the city will not be hidden away in Siberia, but will be situated outside a village near Moscow. Moreover, most of the research will be done by private companies, although these will be the recipients of generous subsidies. The companies will also be exempt from taxation for the time being, and free from the many bureaucratic constraints that usually make life for businesses so difficult in Russia.

Some scientists and businessmen in Russia have applauded the new initiative. Others, however, are more doubtful. Although the inspiration for the plan is Silicon Valley, it is still a scheme run by the government. Though the plan welcomes foreign investment, the bureaucracy will still have indirect control over what happens in the city. The Russian government, [though], hopes its plan will allow the country to truly modernize its economy.

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