

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 455

Hello, everyone!

Today, I will be talking about Sam the cat and his camping story. This is part five of the story. Let's start.

Sam was just about to fall asleep, when something felt wrong. He saw a dark shadow creep up the tent wall.

"Run for your lives!" Sam shouted with all his might.

"Oh my," Simon laughed. "Did I give you a fright?"

"What's the big deal?" said Simon. "Everything is alright!"

Sam did not think so, but he was too tired to pick a fight.

That is it for today. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 455

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Music plays an important part in many people's lives. Today there are several different styles of music. Let's find out more about them!

Pop is a simple form of music, with melodies and rhythms that are easy to follow and remember. Pop songs are often short three-minute songs that people like instantly when they first hear them. The lyrics are often about emotions, usually love. Songs by The Beatles are examples of pop songs.

Rhythm and Blues – often just called R&B – has a strong beat and rhythm, with sounds from guitars, keyboards, and vocals. These days R&B is often mixed with pop or hip hop. Mariah Carey and Jennifer Lopez are two singers who combine styles to create new musical sounds.

See you next time!

Hello! Welcome to PR2.

Today's text is about a project aiming to end poverty in a village in Indonesia. Let's begin!

In 1976, David Bussau, a young Australian businessman, decided to participate in a project designed to help an Indonesian village that had been devastated by an earthquake. The aim of the project was to rebuild the village's infrastructure, so he and other volunteers worked hard to repair local roads and bridges, rebuild schools, and establish water supplies. As Bussau got to know the villagers and their lives, however, he realized that the volunteer's efforts would do little to lift the village out of poverty. The real cause of their poverty, he discovered, lay not in a lack of local infrastructure, but in the debts they owed to cruel moneylenders. At the root of the problem were loan sharks – people who lent money to the poor but charged very high interest rates. Although respectable loan companies offering loans based on market interest rates existed, they didn't offer small-scale loans. Bussau reasoned that if the villagers had access to proper financing, this would allow them to escape from the cycle of poverty in which they were trapped. He and his colleagues decided to set up an organization that offered small-scale loans. The group's early efforts proved successful, and over the years it developed into a major global development association, Opportunity International. Now, the association offers small-scale loans to poor people around the world.

This is it for today! Bye-bye!