

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 477

Hello! Welcome to PR Junior.

Today, I am going to read my e-mail to my friend, Yuria in Russia.

Hello, Yuria! How are you these days?

I am going to visit China to watch the Olympics next week. Do you want to come with me? I have two tickets, so we can watch the game together. When you arrive at Beijing Airport, I can pick you up with my bike. We can also go to the city! What do you think?

See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 477

Hello, everyone. Welcome back to PR1.

Today, I will be telling you more of the story, *The Deer and His Image*. Let's get started.

The dog woke up and chased him. The deer was terribly scared. He screamed. The deer didn't want to be a victim at all, so he ran into the forest. His strong legs helped him run fast. His pale brown hooves were hard, so they were not sensitive to rough rocks. However, his horns got caught in branches, slowing him down. His large chest could not fit between thick trees.

So, that is all for today. We still have some more to go, so don't forget to come back for the next part. Thank you for watching, and see you next time. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 477

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR2.

Today, I will be talking about the roles of gossip. Let's begin:

Like it or not, we are the descendants of busy bodies. According to scientists, because our prehistoric ancestors lived in relatively small groups, they knew one another intimately. In order to ward off enemies and survive in their harsh natural environment, our ancestors needed to cooperate with in-group members. But it also recognized that these same in-group members were their main competitors for mates and resources. Living under such conditions, our ancestors faced a number of adaptive social problems: who is trustworthy? Who will make the best mate? How can friendship, alliances, and family obligations be balanced? In this sort of environment, an intense interest in the private dealings of other people will have certainly been handy. People who were the best at harnessing the social intelligence to interpret, predict, and influence the behavior of others became more successful than those who were not. Today, good gossipers are influential and popular members of their social groups. Sharing secrets is a way to keep your bond, and sharing gossip with another person is a sign of deep trust – you are signaling that you believe that the person will not use this sensitive information against you. Therefore, someone skillful at gossip will have a good rapport with a large network of people. At the same time, they will be discretely knowledgeable about what is going on throughout the group. On the other hand, someone who is not part of the gossip network is an outsider – someone neither trusted nor accepted by the group. Presenting yourself as a self-righteous soul who refuses to participate in gossip will ultimately end up being nothing but a ticket to social isolation.

This is it for today. Thank you!