

**Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 496**

Hello! Welcome back!

Let's find out what happened when the children's grandmother arrived!

All of grandma's children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren came to the party. They brought presents, birthday cards, and plenty of delicious food. Grandma flew all the way from Africa. She drove from the airport in a shiny, silver sports car. She honked loudly when she arrived.

It sounds like the kids have a cool grandmother, don't you think?

Alright, this is it for today! See you next time! Bye!

**Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 496**

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR1.

Today, I will be talking about having a common language. Let's begin:

Language is the primary means through which we communicate and express ourselves. Given that man is a social creature, and his growth and progress is dependent on his interactions with others, language does play a vital role in helping to shape his thoughts and ideas. Some may argue that with a common language, humans would be united in the ability to relate and communicate more effectively, ultimately eliminating communication barriers. However, having a common language may not help to make the world a better place. I personally believe that a common language would do more harm than good in today's society. Instead, we should work together to accept, embrace, and appreciate the diversity of languages we have today.

This is it for today. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 496

Hello, everyone!

This is PR2 and today you are going to listen to a text about a Chinese art form called “Hundred Plays”. Let’s begin!

Over two thousand years ago, Chinese farmers had a problem. Even though they were very industrious, the weather became too cold outside to plant their staple food – rice. So what did they do? Since they had so much free time during the long, cold winters, the inventive farmers started performing tricks to entertain themselves. They used their farm tools and anything they could find to make their tricks more spectacular. They even twisted their bodies into crazy shapes and performed awesome jumps. Over time, they became great acrobats, and their art form came to be known as “Hundred Plays”.

Hundred Plays involves doing many kinds of tricks. For example, in Mandarin-speaking parts of China, performers do the lion dance. They wear costumes and mimic the animal’s movements. Early performers also did tricks on ropes and vines that were high above the ground.

Even though the acrobats’ fluid movements may have looked easy, they took a lot of work.

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Have you ever seen what the “Hundred Plays” looks like? Feel free to look it up at home and discover this ancient Chinese art form! That is all for today from me. See you!