

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 535

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to Inter-Tomas.

Today, I want to ask you: what do you do during Golden Week?

First, let me tell you about myself: I clean my room, study, eat delicious food, go for walks, and go on one-day trips. For example, yesterday I studied in the morning, went to Enoshima, and ate a cheesecake!

Next time we meet, tell me more about how you spend your Golden Week.

See you next time! Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 535

Hello! Welcome to PR1! Today's story is *The Tortoise's Trick*. Let's begin!

Hare and Tortoise had a fight about who could eat the vegetables in the farmer's field.

"Let's have a race to decide," said Hare.

Tortoise agreed. "We will race along the cabbage row tomorrow," he said. "The winner can have all the vegetables to eat whatever he likes. The loser will not be allowed to go to the farmer's field again."

Tortoise asked his family to help him win the race. "We will play a trick on Hare."

What trick do you think the tortoise is planning to play on the Hare? Let's find out in the next movie! That's all for today. See you next time. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 535

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

I don't know if you can notice, but after spending some time outside in the lovely sunshine we had the other day, I got a little bit sunburned. And I thought this was a good opportunity to talk about the distinction between a sunburn and a suntan.

These two terms are often confused by you students and Japanese speakers in general, and I think the mistake derives from the fact that in Japanese there's mainly one term that can apply to both English terms. There are quite a few examples of this in Japanese, mainly with animal names, but in this case, the distinction is quite important.

A suntan, then, is basically when the skin changes colour – usually becoming a bit darker or more “brown” – and whether that's a good thing or not depends on personal preference. I, like many British people, prefer to have slightly tanned skin because I guess it makes me look a little bit healthier or generally more active or outdoorsy.

A sunburn, on the other hand, is when the skin is literally burned by the sun's rays and, like any burn, that's obviously not a good thing. It's quite painful, the skin turns red or pink, and after a couple of days will start to peel, and that's not fun for anyone.

So, I guess the main distinction is that a suntan, for some people at least, is something that you want to get. But a sunburn is something that nobody wants to get. I hope that clears things up a little bit for you and I hope you avoid that mistake in the future.

Alright, guys, well, until next time – and as always – study hard, stay safe, and I'll see you soon.