

### Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 543

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR Junior.

Today, I will be telling you a story about Mark and his aunts. This is part seven of the story. Let's begin.

"And untangle this yarn," said Aunt Dot.

"And fix the toaster," said Aunt Flow.

The rest of the week, all Mark heard was: "Mark, could you... turn on the TV? ...Pop some popcorn? ...Change the channel? ...Shuffle some cards? ...Roll the dice? ...Keep the score?"

This is it for today. See you!

### Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 543

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR 1.

Today, I have a news article about Elon Musk buying Twitter. Take a listen.

Elon Musk, [who] is the world's richest man, announced he is buying Twitter. Since 2013, Twitter [has been] a public company, and now, it will become private. Millions of people use Twitter, and world leaders also use it.

In the past, Musk said that Twitter needed to change, and the only possible way to do it was to make it a private company. [He said] the change was important for freedom of speech on Twitter.

At first, the company didn't want Musk to buy it, but his offer interested them. He offered to buy Twitter for 44 billion dollars, and [21] billion of those dollars were his money.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 543

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

I have a news story here that some of you may have already come across, but I thought it was quite interesting, so take a listen to this:

East Japan Railway Company removed a sheet of paper that covered a sign in a Tokyo railway station on April 15<sup>th</sup>, a week after it had put up the paper to cover Russian writing on the sign. The Cyrillic sign in Ebisu Station directs people to Roppongi and Nakameguro stations. JR East had covered it on April 7<sup>th</sup> following complaints from people upset at Russia's invasion of Ukraine. JR East removed the paper after criticism of the move. People had posted comments on Twitter such as "The Russian language is innocent."

Ah, yes, quite interesting. I can understand wanting to show support and sensitivity towards the people of Ukraine, and these kinds of tense political situations can be quite tricky to navigate, but I don't really think this is one of those cases. I mean, there's a huge difference between the Russian people, or people who happen to speak Russian, and, of course, the Russian language itself, and the current Russian government – and its leader, who pretty much singlehandedly decided to invade a neighbouring country. So, it's not really fair to punish Russian speakers, most of whom also condemn the actions of Putin. Taking down signs celebrating Putin is one thing, but covering up some Russian writing is quite unnecessary, and not really the show of solidarity that some people might think it is. But let me know what you think, okay?

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