

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 546

Hello! Welcome to PR Junior.

This is part three of the story, *Baby Whale's Mistake*. Let's get started!

Baby whale hadn't seen a boat sailing along on the sea. The boat tripped right over, and three men fell out. Baby whale saw the men climbing into their little rubber lifeboat just as their boat sank into the sea. Baby whale felt very sorry he hadn't watched more carefully.

This is all for today. See you in the next movie! Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 546

Hello, everyone! How are you? This is PR 1.

Today, many people like to eat chocolate, but the word "chocolate" originally meant "bitter water". Long ago, people didn't eat chocolate, they drank it. Chocolate is made [from] cacao beans. Ancient Mexican people believed that cacao beans were given to them by the gods and they drank chocolate. About 500 years ago, Spanish people brought cacao beans with them back to their country. They drank chocolate in a cup with hot water like Mexican people. But there was a problem: it was very bitter. So, some sugar was put in the chocolate and it became delicious. This was a big change.

I'll see you later! Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 546

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

Now, with all the horribleness that's happening over in Ukraine at the moment, the one positive that can perhaps be taken from this is the widespread and seemingly unanimous support and sympathy that has been shown to the Ukrainian people, with many countries and individual families offering help and, crucially, refuge. As nice as it is to be given a new place to live, though, there are still many difficulties that come with suddenly having to relocate, including communication. But some people are apparently helping with that, too. Take a listen:

A Japanese firm has donated one thousand pocket interpreter devices to the Ukrainian Embassy in Tokyo to ease the language difficulties many evacuees face as they start new lives in Japan. The initiative to provide Pocketalk handhelds came from the Tokyo-based firm of the same name. "Our mission is to eliminate language barriers, I hope they can help evacuees," Pocketalk President Noriyuki Matsuda said. The device can give audio translations in dozens of languages, including Ukrainian-to-Japanese and Japanese-to-Ukrainian.

Ah, you see? There you go, a little bit of positive and diplomatic news in these otherwise tense times.

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