

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 549

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

This is part two of the story about the undersea adventure. Let's begin.

"What is it?" asked Bruno.

"It looks like a submarine," said Linda.

"It's a kind of submarine," said Joe. "It explores the sea bed."

"That's right," said Jean. "It goes to the bottom of the sea."

"What a brilliant present!" said Linda.

The submarine looked like a car.

That is all for today. See you soon!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 549

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR1.

Today, we are going to talk about wildfires in the Amazon rainforest and Brazil's take on it.

Let's begin!

The Amazon rainforest has been described as "the world's lungs" because [it is] a vital absorber of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Of critical concern is the fact that the number of forest fires in Brazil since January has increased by 83 percent compared with the same period last year. The Brazilian president has reportedly made it clear that he wants to open up the Amazon to the demands of mining, agricultural, and logging companies to aid in his country's economic development. There is also an ongoing investigation about a Brazilian newspaper advertisement calling farmers to burn parts of the forest to show the president that they are willing to work.

This is it for today. See you!

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

Now, if you have any interest in science, or specifically astrophysics, or more specifically in the mysterious origins of life on Earth, then you may well have come across the theory that life didn't actually start on Earth but instead was planted here – either intentionally by some alien race, or, more believably, by the coincidental impact of some life-carrying asteroid. Well, it looks like there might be some more evidence that would support the tangibility of that theory. Take a listen to this:

A fresh examination of meteorites that landed in the U.S., Canada, and Australia is bolstering the notion that such objects may have delivered to Earth early in its history the chemical ingredients vital for the advent of life. Scientists previously had detected on these meteorites three of the five chemical components needed to form DNA, the molecule that carries genetic instructions in living organisms, and RNA, the molecule crucial for controlling the actions of genes. Researchers said on April 26th they have now identified the final two after fine-tuning the way they analyzed the meteorites.

Huh! Well, there you go! The very first building blocks to sentient life may well have come from outside of this planet. But that still doesn't answer the question of whether those ingredients were offshoots from some other preexisting life far way, or whether they were the first of their kind – which would make us the first of ours. What do you think?

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