

**Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 552**

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR Junior.

Today, I will be telling you a story about Mark and his aunts. This is part nine of the story.

Let's begin.

Mark sat down. He put up his feet. He leaned back in his chair. "Oh, yes," he said. "It's nice to relax."

Then, he heard Iris's voice: "Mark, could you..."

"Oh, no," thought Mark.

This is it for today. See you!

**Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 552**

Hello. Welcome back to PR1!

Today's movie is the third part of the tortoise's trick. Let's get started.

When Hare arrived for the race, he didn't notice any other tortoises. Lots of animals came to see if Tortoise could win the race.

"Ready, set, go!" shouted Owl, and the race began, with Hare running quickly along the row of cabbages. Tortoise plodded as fast as he could on his short legs. As soon as Hare was out of sight, Tortoise turned back and hid near the starting line. After a while, Hare looked back to see how far behind tortoise was, but he could not see him anywhere.

He heard a voice call, "Here I am!" When he looked ahead, he saw Tortoise crawling along in front of him!

Alright, that's all for today. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 552

Hello, Everyone! Welcome back to PR 2.

Today, I would like to tell you about how a man's obsession led him to one of the most remote places in the world. Take a listen.

The local people cried when they heard Sven Hedin's plans. They couldn't believe he was going off into the Mankiller Desert. The desert's real name was Takla Makan, but most people in western China just called it the Mankiller. They said that evil spirits lurked in the vast stretch of sand. They said that the spirits led travelers astray and then left them to die.

Hedin did not believe the stories. The Swedish explorer felt a strong pull to investigate this Asian desert. As he wrote, "I had fallen under the spell of the weird witchcraft of the desert." For him, the biggest thrill would be walking where no European had ever walked before. "I knew that beyond the sand hills, surrounded by the grave-like silence, stretched the unknown, enchanted land...land that I was going to be the first to tread."

And so, in April of 1895, Hedin set out. With him went a servant named Islam Bai. This man had traveled with Hedin on several previous expeditions. Three local men had also agreed to go. One was a guide named Yollchi. He had been into the desert before in search of gold. He claimed that he could get Hedin across it with no trouble. The group took eight strong camels each packed with water casks, food and other supplies.

That's all for today, and come back next time for the continuation of this story. Bye-bye!