

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 561

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, I have the next part of the story about the two mice. Take a listen.

The Town Mouse said, "My poor friend, you live no better than ants. You should see what I eat all day! You must come and stay with me."

So he took the Country Mouse home with him and showed him a pantry full of oatmeal, honey, and dates.

Well, that's all for today and I'll see you in class. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 561

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today I am going to talk about the scary fire tornados. Let's get started!

We're all used to hearing about tornados, but imagine if a tornado was a whirling fire storm instead of a wind storm. A fire tornado or a 'fire devil' can happen when high temperatures from a wildfire mix with strong winds. They are usually about 300-450 metres high, but they can sometimes reach 1.6 kilometers in height! A fire tornado made world news in 2010 in Brazil when astonished motorists watched one spin and burn its way through fields by a highway. In 1923, the Great Kanto Earthquake in Japan ignited the largest fire tornado in history, killing 38,000 people in 15 minutes. Luckily, fire tornados are very rare!

That's all. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 561

Hello! Welcome back to PR2!

Today's movie is about the connection between mind and the brain. It's going to get very scientific, so let's get started!

What is the connection between mind and brain? This is not purely a scientific issue; it is also a philosophical question, and an ancient one as well. Over the next few decades, as scientists reveal the mechanism of the brain in greater detail, the question of the connection between our brains and our minds will become a more urgent matter for further discussion.

The brain is a physical system. It contains about 100 billion interconnected neurons – about as many neurons as there are stars in the Milky Way. It is not the number of cells that is important here, but the connections between them. Each neuron may receive signals from thousands of others, and may, in turn, send signals out to thousands more. The neurons seem to be arranged hierarchically: those that receive signals from the senses process them and pass them on to higher systems of neurons. In the end, by mechanisms we still do not fully understand, these signals are converted by neurons in different parts of the brain into the final signals that produce images, sounds, or smells. Thus the brain works basically by passing information from neuron to neuron.

Alright, that's all for today. Let's continue in the next movie! Bye-bye!