

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 566

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

This is part four of the story about the undersea adventure. Let's go.

The magic took the children to the sea, where there were lots of boats. Bruno pointed to a yellow submarine.

"Look at that one," he said. "It looks just like Joe's submarine!"

The children went to look at the submarine.

"I wish we could look inside," said Bruno.

The submarine became larger! That's all for today. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 566

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR 1.

Today, I have a news article about Japan reopening its borders to tourism. Take a listen.

Japan will reopen to overseas tourists and end its two-year pandemic closure. The government has decided to allow tourists from 98 countries from June the 10th. However, the opening will be tightly controlled. Initially, only package tour groups will be allowed in. A daily cap of 20,000 arrivals has been set. Authorities will monitor the tourists' movements and track any spread of COVID-19. All visitors have to test negative for COVID before they travel to Japan. Japan has among the strictest border controls of any country. Japan's change of stance is welcome news for its tourism industry, which has suffered heavily from COVID.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 566

Hello! Welcome back to PR2!

Today's movie is part two of the text about the connection between mind and brain. Let's get started.

The goal of brain research would be to attain the detailed knowledge of how neurons function, or in other words, which neurons are firing in any circumstance.

The fundamental question, then, becomes what the mind is. Formal definitions usually mention something like "the sum of mental activities", but that does not tell us much. On the other hand, we all have had the experience of mind. Close your eyes and think of an episode from your childhood. You probably can have a fairly detailed visual image of some setting, maybe even some sounds and smells. You have those images "in mind", but where exactly are they? They obviously do not correspond to any input from the senses into your brain right now, even though they must involve the firing of neurons somewhere. In the mid-20th century neurosurgeons operating on the brains of conscious patients discovered that they could produce these sorts of images by applying electrical current to specific parts of the brain. Obviously there is some [sort of] connection between the activity of neurons and our ability to create images, which we associate with the concept of "mind". But what can this connection be?

Let's continue in the next movie! See you next time. Bye-bye!