

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 609

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Were any of you affected by the typhoon we had last week? I thought it was pretty rainy and windy, but not that bad. In fact, there was a day a couple of weeks ago that was way more rainy and windy, but I didn't hear anything about a typhoon at that time. I think typhoons in Tokyo are often just like regular rainy days, and so most people aren't seriously affected.

Let me know what you think! See you guys!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 609

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR1!

Today, I will be talking about customs and communication. Let's begin!

Every culture around the world has different customs and ways of communicating. When you learn a language, you learn more than words; you also learn a lot of rules. You learn what kind of greetings to use in different situations. For example, in China, a traditional greeting is "Have you eaten today?" In addition, there are rules for making small talk when you meet a person. Once you have learned the rules of a language, you can communicate more easily and avoid misunderstandings. People in different cultures also have different ways of using their bodies to communicate. But there's one kind of communication that's the same everywhere: a smile can always connect people.

This is it for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 609

Welcome back to PR2 Dictation! Today we'll be continuing our talk on problems poor families have with rent.

Fewer and fewer families can afford a roof over their head. This is among the most urgent and pressing issues facing America today, and acknowledging the breadth and depth of the problem changes the way we look at poverty. For decades, we have failed to fully appreciate how deeply housing is involved in the creation of poverty.

For almost a century, there has been broad consensus in America that families should spend no more than 30 percent of their income on housing. Until recently, most renting families met this goal. But times have changed across America. Every year in this country, people are evicted from their homes not by the tens of thousands or even the hundreds of thousands but by the millions. Until recently, we simply didn't know how immense this problem was, or how serious the consequences, unless we suffered them ourselves. For years, social scientists, journalists, and policymakers all but ignored eviction, making it one of the least studied processes affecting the lives of poor families. But new data and methods have allowed us to measure the frequency of eviction and its effects. We have learned that eviction is common in poor neighborhoods and that it causes great difficulties for families, communities, and children.

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