

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 613

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Hi, Yerin! What is your favourite season of the year?

Hello, Ivo! My favourite season of the year is winter! What about you?

Oh, I see! My favourite season is summer, because I can go to the beach. What do you like about winter?

My favourite season is winter because I love Christmas and playing with snow.

That is all for today, see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 613

Hello, everyone! How are you doing? Welcome back to PR1!

What do you know about animals?

Polar bears have a good sense of smell. They can smell fish under the ice from far away. They are strong, and they can smash open ice blocks to catch the fish. The mimic octopus isn't colorful, but it can change its color and shape. It can look like a jellyfish, a snake, or fifteen different animals. A hummingbird is one of the smallest and lightest birds. It is lighter than a coin, and it can fly backwards. Zebras are not colorful, and they can't change color. But every zebra's stripes are different, just like fingerprints. [A] box jellyfish has 24 eyes. It is shaped like a box.

That's all for today! See you later!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 613

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

I have yet another news story here relating to the prehistoric remains of long-dead animals, but this time... well, a little bit different to the usual prehistoric angle that those stories have. Take a listen to this:

The remains of a tortoise and its egg have been unearthed by archaeologists in Pompeii, the Roman city buried in a volcanic eruption in A.D. 79. The animal was found hidden under the clay floor of a storehouse and probably died before Vesuvius erupted and destroyed the city. "It had dug itself a burrow where it could lay its egg, but failed to do, which may have caused its death," said Valeria Amoretti who works as an anthropologist at the site. The unusual find came to light during excavations of an area that had been devastated by a violent earthquake in A.D. 62 and was subsequently absorbed into a public bathhouse.

Oh, okay, so the tortoise wasn't killed in the eruption itself, but just happened to have died in the same area around the same time – which I guess applies to a bunch of animal and even human remains that get discovered in the Pompeii area. I assume you all know about the Pompeii disaster and the eruption of Mount Vesuvius? It's something I learned about at school and I always thought it was just a cool moment in history, but it still remains one of the worst things that human beings have ever experienced.

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