

### Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 626

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior!

Do you know where I am? I am in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. I came here for the summer to see my family and friends. This is the theatre. It's beautiful, isn't it? Many people come here during the weekend to watch plays. It is one of my favourite places. You should come here and see it one day!

Thank you for watching and I will see you in Japan. Bye-bye!

### Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 626

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1!

I am currently in Sofia – the city I was born in. It is the capital of Bulgaria and the largest city in the country. The building behind me is the National Palace of Culture! It was built in 1981 in celebration of the 1300th anniversary of the Bulgarian state and it's a very famous landmark. It's a hexagon shape and it's made of concrete & glass. It kind of looks like the kanji for “kyo” in “kyomi” (興味), doesn't it? The main function of the building is a concert hall. It also hosts exhibitions and trade fairs. In front of the building is an underground arcade of shops and cafes.

Thank you for coming on this virtual journey with me and I will see you back in Japan! Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 626

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2!

I am filming today's video from my home – Sofia. I am currently standing in front of [one of] its most remarkable landmarks – the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. Let me tell you a few things about it.

The Alexander Nevsky Cathedral was built in the early 20th century in memory of the 200,000 Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian, and Bulgarian soldiers, who died in the Russo-Turkish War, as a result of which Bulgaria was liberated from Ottoman rule. It was named after Saint Alexander Nevsky, who was a Russian prince. It is one of the largest Eastern Orthodox cathedrals in the world. It is most known for its gold-plated dome, which is 45 meters high, with the bell tower reaching 50.52\* meters. Built in Neo-Byzantine style, it serves as the cathedral church of the Patriarch of Bulgaria. Something that might be of interest to the Japanese people is that close to the cathedral, there are a few cherry-blossom trees. They were planted here to honour the diplomatic relationship between Bulgaria and Japan and to honour their friendship. Bulgarians pride themselves with this cathedral very much and it's the first place they would take you to if you were to come to Sofia.

Thank you for coming on this virtual trip with me and I will see you in Japan! Bye-bye!

\* Pronounced "fifty point five-two"