

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 660

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

So, these days, it has gotten a lot chillier, hasn't it? Just two or three weeks ago, I was still wearing polo shirts and feeling pretty hot, but now it's already sweater and jacket weather. Luckily, it's not quite cold enough for me to use my heater at home yet, but I think it will get much colder quite soon.

Be sure to wrap up nice and warm when it does, okay guys?

See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 660

Hello! Welcome back to PR1. Let's continue the story of Mushu.

The emperor ordered one man from each family to join the Imperial Army. Mulan's father, Fa Zhou, had no sons, so he was determined to fight. To save her father, Mulan decided to take his place. But the laws also said that a girl could not disguise herself as a boy. If Mulan got caught, she would lose her head. Something had to be done!

"Let a guardian bring her back," an ancestor suggested. The ancestors wanted the most powerful guardian. I stepped forward.

"I'll go," I said. The foolish ancestors laughed at me.

How do you think Mushu reacted to this? Let's find out later. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 660

Hey, everyone! This is Part One of *Marriage in the United States*.

Last June, the Supreme Court made same-sex marriage legal throughout the United States. The historic opinion, written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, used language so beautiful that it quickly became popular in wedding ceremonies. In September, I attended three that quoted Kennedy's declaration that marriage "allows two people to find a life that could not be found alone, for a marriage becomes greater than just the two persons." Less often quoted, but perhaps more important, is the section of Kennedy's opinion which lists the "material burdens" placed on same-sex couples previously denied the right to marry: exclusion from the benefits and rewards given to workers and their spouses through retirement savings programs, health insurance, and tax policy, for example. "Marriage remains a building block of our national community," Kennedy explained. "Just as a couple vows to support each other, so does society pledge to support the couple, offering symbolic recognition and material benefits to protect and nourish the union."

At first glance, Kennedy's claim that the material benefits offered to married couples by the government and employers are there to "nourish" each union seems like nothing more than an idealistic way of saying something obvious: Americans know that there are economic rewards to marriage.

That's all for today. See you again in class! Bye-bye!