

**Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 665**

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Last time, I talked about how it is already much chillier than only a few weeks ago, and that it will probably get even colder pretty soon. So, what do you usually do to keep warm at home?

I don't have a kotatsu, so I often use my heater. But I also wear extra clothes and extra-thick socks around the house. And I sometimes even get into bed wearing my dressing gown! Of course, blankets are also good.

Okay, guys, see you next time!

**Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 665**

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR 1!

Today, I'm going to talk about families and time. Let's begin.

It seems that everywhere around the world, people are spending more time at work or alone, and less time with their families and friends. People are busier than ever before!

In the past in many countries, the father worked and the mother stayed at home, took care of the children, and did the food shopping, cooking, and cleaning. Nowadays, in many families, both parents work, so they both have to do the shopping, cooking, and cleaning in their free time. Parents, therefore, don't have as much time with their children as they used to have in the past. There are also many single-parent families. In these families, the single parent has to do everything.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 665

Hello, everyone!

This is Part 2 of our talk on marriage benefits in the U.S. Let's begin.

Since their introduction, America's biggest social insurance programs have promoted inequality within marriages by pushing couples to organize their household economies so that one spouse is in the workforce while the other performs unpaid care work in the home.

Social Security, for example, encourages breadwinner-homemaker marriages using both carrots and sticks. Most people understand Social Security to pay out benefits at retirement purely on the basis of what individuals pay into the system during their working lives. But, in fact, Social Security does not pay [everyone] who contributes the same amount equally. Being married or unmarried also determines the size of an individual's benefit. Social Security's retirement insurance program offers a married person an extra 50 percent of whatever retirement benefit he or she earns. This "dependent benefit" is intended to support the worker's spouse. Single people in the workforce pay the same Social Security taxes as married people, but they do not earn [this] dependent benefit. In other words, single people only earn two-thirds of what married people can earn.

However, marriage isn't always such a good deal. Only certain married people gain from Social Security's benefit structure: married couples who generally fit the breadwinner-homemaker mode. When spouses earn roughly equal amounts in the workforce, they lose.

Okay, that's all for today. I'll see you again next time. Bye-bye!