

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 684

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, I am going to read you a letter to [the] grandmother of a girl. Let's begin.

Dear grandma,

How are you? I'm very busy these days. I have piano lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. I usually take the train to school, but I walk from school to my piano teacher's house. After the lesson, I ride the bus home.

That is all for today. Let's listen to the rest of the letter next time. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 684

Hello, everyone. Welcome back to PR1.

Do you guys know the story about the Grasshopper and the Ant?

One summer day, Grasshopper was singing and enjoying the sunshine. He noticed the ants passing by carrying a heavy load of food to store for the winter. The Grasshopper asked them to play, but they refused. The ants reminded Grasshopper that he should prepare for winter. The Grasshopper thought this was a silly idea on such a nice day. When winter came, the Grasshopper did not have food to eat or shelter from the cold. The Ants had plenty. They were all fed and protected even on the coldest days. He begged them for food, but they did not help. He now understood why it is important to work before playing.

That's all for today. See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 684

Hello! Welcome back to PR2!

Today's movie is about how people in many parts of the world believe that words have magical powers. Let's get started.

There is a large amount of evidence which shows that people believe that words to have magical powers. This is most easily illustrated with those very special words, people's names. In the traditions of modern Ethiopia, the real name of a child is concealed to prevent the child from being influenced magically through the use of the name. It is believed that knowledge of the names gives power over the person who bears the name. Beliefs of this type are widespread throughout the world. In Borneo, for example, the name of a sickly child is traditionally changed so that the spirits tormenting it will be deceived and leave the child alone. The spirits, apparently, can recognize people only by their names, not through other characteristics. An extreme example was reported by the early explorers in the Marquesas Islands. There it was possible for two people to exchange names as a sign of mutual respect. But this exchange of names also involved an exchange of responsibilities: obligations concerning the family, friends, and even enemies went with the change of name. A man might even be expected to go to war because of the responsibility to his new name.

Let's stop here for today and continue in the next movie. Bye-bye!