

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 690

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, I am going to continue telling you about Grumpy Sam. Let's begin.

Sam's family tried to cheer him up.

Grandpa did a trick, but Sam wouldn't look. Sue told him a funny joke, but Sam wouldn't laugh. Dad asked Sam a riddle, but he wouldn't listen. Charlie walked on his hands, but Sam wouldn't look. Kate made a funny face, but Sam wouldn't laugh.

Well, that's all for today. See you next time, bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 690

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1!

This time, we will be reading a passage on crowdfunding. Let's begin.

In the past, when someone wanted to raise money, there were usually only a few ways. They had to receive money from friends and family members or borrow money from banking organizations. Today, we can use crowdfunding as the practice of covering costs for a project. It raises small amounts of money from a large number of people, in particular using the Internet to collect the necessary amount. The point is that it connects people who need money for a specific purpose and people who are ready to help. Crowdfunding is often used by people who can't pay expensive medical care bills such as those for operations. In 2019, the amount of individual donations to U.S. charities grew to a total of about 309 billion dollars.

Okay, that's all for today. I'll see you again in class. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 690

Hello! Welcome back to PR2! Today's movie is the continuation of the text about words' magical powers. Let's get started!

In some cultures, the use of a particular name is an offence. In imperial China, for instance, it was a crime to use the name of the reigning emperor. This could provide problems when the emperor's name was also a common word. If this occurred in an English-speaking country today where the emperor's name was Bill, it would be illegal to talk about a bill from the electricity company.

Similar kinds of constraints can also apply to the names of things, as well as to the names of people. It is fairly common to find a taboo against the use of the name of a powerful animal, such as a bear, tiger, or crocodile. Instead, phrases like 'honey-eater' are used. In parts of Africa and India, it is not acceptable to call a snake a 'snake', otherwise you are likely to get bitten. In a similar way, Bavarian farmers in Germany traditionally do not call a fox 'fox', in case using the word brings a fox and causes it to attack their hens. In a very similar way, we still say 'talk of the devil', suggesting that speaking of someone causes them to appear.

It's interesting how people in so many different parts of the world attribute supernatural properties to (the) words, isn't it?

Alright, that was all for today. See you next time! Bye-bye!