

### Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 705

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

This is the tenth part of the story called "May Day". Let's begin!

The children took their places round Mrs. Green and the music began.

Everyone clapped as the children began to dance. The ribbons began to weave into a pattern.

The music did not stop, so the children went on dancing.

That was all for today. I hope you liked it and I'll see you next time! Bye-bye!

### Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 705

Hello! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, I am going to read the second half of the story about intelligent animals. Let's begin!

Rico is a very famous example of dog intelligence. A scientist studied Rico carefully and found that he knew the names of more than 200 items. Rico could still remember the names after not hearing them for four weeks. A well-known test used to see which animals have intelligence is called the mirror test. This tests if animals can recognize themselves in a mirror. So far, only humans, chimpanzees, orangutans, dolphins and pigeons have passed this test.

That's amazing! Try looking at your pet, maybe he or she is also a genius! That is all for today, see you!

Dictation Contest (PR2, 上級) No. 705

Hello everyone, and welcome back to PR2.

Today, we will continue learning about the origin of ugly Christmas sweaters.

It wasn't until the 1980s that the item hit the mainstream. The shift came thanks to pop culture and comedies, with goofball dad characters like Chevy Chase's Clark Griswold in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" turning the holiday sweater into an uncomely but endearing expression of cheer. Snowflake-emblazoned sweaters weren't considered cool, but they radiated yule, and were sported at office parties and on Christmas Day.

The resurgence didn't last long. In the 1990s the Christmas sweater faded in popularity; it was something only your unfashionable older relatives would ever think of wearing or gifting. The early 2000s also saw new life breathed into this now holiday staple.

The first so themed get-together took place in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 2002, said Brian Miller, one of the book's authors and founder of online shop UglyChristmasSweaterParty.com, in a phone interview. "It's hard to say what triggered the change in perspective, but I think that the moment someone wore the garment in a humorous way, people started seeing the comic side of it, and thinking 'this thing at the back of the closet could be fun, instead of something awful that nobody wants'," he said.

The popularity of the ugly sweater snowballed from there.

Over the following decade, the festive knit evolved into "a new holiday tradition," as Miller described it. "It became our generation's mistletoe," he added. "Which is pretty remarkable, when you think about it."

All right, that's it for today! Thank you all for your hard work, and see you next year!