

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 708

Hello Everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior!

Today you are going to listen to a story called *An Odd Egg: Part Two*. Let's figure out together what happened to the egg!

"It's fun to hatch chicks," said Dad,

"This is an odd egg," said Lily.

The incubator had a lamp and a fan.

"It will turn the eggs," said Mom.

Ten eggs did hatch. They had ten chicks. But the odd egg did not hatch.

But it was not a chick. It was a duckling.

Did you guys enjoy the story? That's all for today, see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 708

Hi everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Last time we have listened to the problems with pets caused by bad owners. Let's see what the government is going to do about this.

It wants a set of instructions on how to take care of different kind of animals. The instructions would even explain how to keep animals happy. The UK government also wants to create special "pet police." They will be able to go to people's homes to check that they are taking care of their pets properly. If they find someone treating an animal badly, they can take the animal away. People who hurt their pets can even go to jail. I hope more people will now try to take better care of their pets.

That is all for today. See you next time! Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 708

Hello, everyone, and welcome back to PR2! I hope you're all doing well.

Today you will listen to a short lecture on the choices we make at a supermarket. For example, when we want to buy butter, we'll often see multiple brands selling the same product. Being able to choose which brand to buy is a form of freedom, but some people argue the exact opposite, saying that too many choices causes more problems..

These days, a typical American supermarket carries more than 30,000 items. There may be 85 different brands of crackers, 280 varieties of cookies, 360 kinds of shampoo, 90 types of cold medicine, and 175 different salad dressings. Is it true, however, that more choice leads to a happier life?

Dr. Barry Schwartz, a psychologist and the author of *The Paradox of Choice*, believes that at least two new problems have developed as a result of having more choices. First, instead of enjoying the freedom of choice, consumers can become paralyzed. This is because too much choice is overwhelming, and can result in an inability to choose. Second, even if we do manage to make a choice, it is likely that we will not feel satisfied with the result. Schwartz believes that the more options there are, the easier it is to feel regret. In other words, when we choose one thing that means we are not choosing another, which may feel like a missed opportunity.

That's it for today. Thank you very much, and stay warm!