

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 712

Hi, everyone! Welcome to PR Junior. Today's topic is *A New Pet*. Let's listen to it!

Jane lives in New York City with her parents. They live in an apartment by a park.

Last night, her father said, "Let's go to a pet shop tomorrow."

After lunch, they went to the pet shop and saw many different animals. First, Jane saw some white and gray rabbits. She said, "They're so cute."

Jane's father asked, "What kind of animal do you want, Jane?"

Will Jane buy rabbit? Let's find out next time. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 712

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

This is ~~the~~ Part Two of the video about Africa. Now, take a listen:

I learned about some projects for them in Japan. The "Table for Two" project is one of them. The project gives school lunches to children in Africa. It was begun by some Japanese people. Many restaurants have joined and supported the project. If you eat at those restaurants, 20 [yen] is sent to Africa for each meal. In Africa, they can buy 1 school lunch for 20 yen. This project is also good for Japanese people, because the "Table for Two" restaurants use healthy food for their menu. If you eat there, you can help children in Africa and take care of your health. Why don't you try and eat at a "Table for Two" restaurant?

Okay, that's it for today. How was the whole story? I hope it was interesting for you guys. See you soon!

Dictation Contest (PR2, 上級) No. 712

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today I'm going to read the second part of the story about dogs' domestication. Let's begin!

Pugs and poodles may not look the part, but if you trace their lineages far enough back in time, all dogs are descended from wolves. Gray wolves and dogs diverged from an extinct wolf species some 15,000 to 40,000 years ago. There's general scientific agreement on that point, and also with evolutionary anthropologist Brian Hare's characterization of what happened next. 'The domestication of dogs was one of the most extraordinary events in human history,' Hare says. But controversies abound concerning where a long-feared animal first became our closest domestic partner. Genetic studies have pinpointed everywhere from southern China to Mongolia to Europe. Scientists cannot agree on the timing, either. Last summer, research reported in *Nature Communications* pushed likely dates for domestication further back into the past, suggesting that dogs were domesticated just once at least 20,000 but likely closer to 40,000 years ago. Evolutionary ecologist Krishna R. Veeramah, of Stony Brook University, and colleagues sampled DNA from two Neolithic German dog fossils, 7,000 and 4,700 years old, respectively. Tracing genetic mutation rates in these genomes yielded the new date estimates. 'We found that our ancient dogs from the same time period were very similar to modern European dogs, including the majority of breed dogs people keep as pets,' explained Dr. Veeramah in a released accompanying the study. This suggests, he adds, 'that there was likely only a single domestication event for the dogs observed in the fossil record from the Stone Age and that we also see and live with today.'

That's all for today! See you!