

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 724

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Last time, I asked you about New Year's traditions in Japan, and this time I want to tell you about my New Year's traditions in England.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Day, most people in England just do nothing! Everybody just rests or recovers from their parties the night before. On New Year's Eve, we get together for the countdown and sometimes set off fireworks, but we don't have any other specific New Year's traditions apart from that. So, now you know! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 724

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR 1.

Let's continue our talk about Laughing and Health. Take a listen.

In the hospital, he read a book. It was about our way of thinking and our body. Then he thought, "If I feel happy, I can cure myself." So he decided to do some things every day, and one of them was to laugh. He read funny stories and watched funny movies. After laughing, he could sleep. He became better. Some months later, he was out of his bed and began to work again.

Smiling and laughing are good for our body. Doctors and scientists have shown it. Then, what is happening in our body when we smile or laugh?

Well, that's all for today. Stay tuned to hear more. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 724

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, you are going to listen to a text about the tragic but also inspirational story of Beethoven – one of the greatest European composers. Let's begin!

Beethoven was a great composer of classical music in the 1800s. Many biographies have been written that narrate his dominance in the music world. But do you know what really makes him special amongst other composers? Even though millions of people got to hear his multiple masterpieces, he never actually did. That is because Beethoven wrote his best pieces after he went completely deaf!

His partiality toward classical music developed when he was very young. He wasn't interested in anything else as a child. When he was five, he learned how to play the piano. From then, nothing could stop his passion for writing and playing music.

When Beethoven was twenty, he began to lose his hearing. He got acute, spontaneous pains in his ears. His hearing kept getting worse and worse over time. It was inevitable that he would eventually lose it altogether.

That was all for the first half of the text. Had you heard of Beethoven before? How do you think he managed to compose one of his greatest works after he went completely deaf? Let me know during our next PR class! See you then!