

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 731

Hi everyone. Welcome back to PR Junior.

Let's hear a conversation between a boy and his mother. Here we go:

Boy: I'm hungry, Mom.

Mom: But you just ate dinner. Was that not enough for you?

Boy: No, it wasn't. Also, I want something sweet. Can I have some dessert, please?

Mom: Okay, you can have some fruit. But don't eat too much. Leave some for your dad.
And don't forget to brush your teeth!

Boy: Got it, Mom! Thanks!

Alright. That's it for today. I'll see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 731

Hi! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, we are going to continue the story of Mushu. Remember that in the last movie Mushu met a cricket? Let's find out what happens next!

He spoke in cricket talk, but I understood him because I'm so wise. He said his name was Cri-Kee.

"Why don't you get Mulan?" he asked.

That's when the idea hit me. If I made Mulan a hero, the ancestors would forgive me, and make me a guardian again. I am brilliant! I set off across the garden, and the cricket tagged along. "What makes you think you're coming with me?" I asked him.

"I'm lucky," Cri-Kee said.

"You'd better be," I replied.

Alright, that's all for today. See you in the next movie. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 731

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, we'll be talking about an upcoming event – Valentine's Day. Hooray!

So, this is my sixth year in Japan and I've always wondered why Japanese people exchange chocolates on this. First, let me explain to you the traditional way of celebrating. Take a listen:

In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century.

By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap." Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (In parentheses: more cards are sent at Christmas.)

So, what do you think? Can you understand why Japanese people send chocolates instead of Valentine's [cards/gifts] on this particular event? Let me know what you think next class. See you!