

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 747

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Let's hear a conversation between Michelle and her father. Here we go.

Father: Where are you going, Michelle?

Michelle: I'm going to the movie theater with my friend, Dad. Do you want to come with us?

Father: No, I'm okay. Thanks for asking, though. How are you going to get there?

Michelle: We're going to walk. It's only ten minutes away.

Father: Well, watch out for cars and bicycles. Stay safe!

Alright, that's it for today. See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 747

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1!

Today you are going to listen to the story [of] stars' births and deaths. Let's begin!

People have always wanted to know how stars are born and how they die.

Scientists now understand how stars are born. When a cloud of gas becomes dense, it starts to heat up. The heat from the gas looks bright in the sky. This is a star. It burns for billions of years.

As a star grows old, it [cools] and becomes less bright. As it dies, the cloud of gas expands. It becomes very big and wide. When small stars die, they collapse. Then they become old. When big stars die, they explode into many pieces*.

That's all for today! See you next time!

* Not quite scientifically accurate

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 747

Hello, everyone, and welcome back to PR2.

So, we have been living in a pandemic for nearly three years, and we're finally seeing some change. Okay, let me read to you a news article about it.

The Japanese government decided to lower the classification of COVID-19 under the infectious disease law, at a meeting of its novel coronavirus response headquarters Friday. COVID-19 is set to be reclassified from Category Two to Category Five, the same as for seasonal flu, on May 8, the first business day after Japan's Golden Week holiday period from late April. At a relevant government panel meeting Friday afternoon, the lifting of the cap on the number of audiences at sports events and concerts involving cheers was approved.

The COVID-19 reclassification marks a major turning point toward the substantial relaxation of restrictions on social and economic activities, more than three years after the virus first started to spread in Japan.

Earlier on Friday, the reclassification was broadly approved by experts at a meeting of the infectious disease subcommittee at the health ministry's Health Sciences Council. Participating experts proposed that the government sets a preparation period of about three months before the shift while noting that people should take infection prevention measures, including mask-wearing, based on their own decisions in principle.

The infectious disease law classifies infectious diseases on a five-tier system based on the severity of symptoms and infectiousness. Category Two is the second highest on the scale.

Okay, so what do you think? Will you still wear a mask even after [?]? Personally, I've grown so comfortable with wearing [a] mask that the transition may feel a little awkward to me, but we'll see.

Okay, that's it for today. Thank you so much for listening, and see you!