

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 749

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, we will continue listening to *Feed the Ducks*. Let's begin!

Beth saw three squirrels. "Are you hungry?" she asked. She gave three pieces of bread to the squirrels. Then she ate a piece, too.

Beth saw four rabbits. "You look hungry," she said. She gave four pieces of bread to the rabbits. She ate a little piece, too.

Well, that's all for today. Can you guess what happens next? See you soon, bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 749

Hey, guys! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, you are going to listen to a story about public telephones.

At first, most public telephones were in stores, and people had to pay the store clerk to use them. As time passed, though, public telephone boxes began to be built outside. These allowed people to make calls on the street without being heard by other people. They also protected people from the rain. They were usually painted bright red. For many people, these red telephones boxes [became] a symbol of British life. One problem with telephone boxes was that people sometimes damaged them by breaking their windows, writing on them, or trying to steal money from the telephone.

That is all for today, bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 749

Hi, everyone. Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I'll read about American workers. Now, take a listen to this:

American workers used to take more vacation time. The average vacation used between 1978 and 2000 was 20.3 days annually. Since then, the number of days taken has gone down and it hit the bottom in 2014 at 16 days. What do you think of these numbers? Why does it matter? Let's focus on this from the viewpoint of the number of paid vacation days taken. EU law requires employees to have at least 20 days of paid vacation. In reality, most companies in the EU give 25 days or more. Now, The US is the only developed country in the world that does not legally require companies to provide paid vacation to their employees. As a result, American workers get only ten days of paid vacation on average after one year of employment. To make things worse, according to a 2015 survey, Americans on average take only 11 of the 15 paid vacation days they are entitled to, while Europeans take almost all of them.

The problem is not limited to these two regions, of course. Without adequate time off, workers' stress levels will increase and they can feel burned out. Moreover, many studies have found that people are more productive when they return to work from vacation. It's good for employers as well; by keeping their employees well-rested and happy, employers can boost employees' motivation and create a healthy work environment.

Okay, that is it for today. How was it? I hope it was interesting! I'll see you next time!