

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 762

Hello! Welcome back to PRJr!

Today, I will read a story called *When Do Hippos Play?* Let's begin!

By the African river, known as the Nile, the sun fell away and it rested a while. The rhinos had braved all the smoldering heat. They lay down to sleep as they wiped off their feet. The elephants marched to their elephant beds. And gently they rested their elephant heads.

Okay, that's all for today. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 762

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Let's continue the second half of the story about pets getting fat. Let's start.

Top veterinarian David Grant says that some people feed their pets chocolate, fries, burgers or too much pet food because it makes them feel like kind and loving owners. But he also explains that doing this can create many health problems for your pet or even cause it to die earlier than normal. Some veterinarians are opening special fat clinics to try and do something about the problem. That's good news, but hopefully pet owners will do more to help their pets eat properly so they do not become fat. If you own a pet, you really should be careful to feed them healthy food and give them regular exercise.

That's all for today. See you next time, good-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 762

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, we'll be talking about a very intelligent parrot that could do various amazing things.

Let's begin.

Alex was thirty-one years old when he died. He knew how to speak and use approximately one hundred words, and he had the intelligence of a five-year old child. You may think that Alex suffered from a mental or physical condition that limited his development, but actually the opposite was true. Alex had incredible language skills and was exceptionally intelligent. You see, Alex was a parrot. Some wild parrots imitate noises made by other birds, and some tame parrots are able to imitate human speech. These parrots imitate the sounds they hear without understanding the meanings. Alex, however was special because he understood the words he used. He could make sentences, answer questions, and count numbers. He recognized seven colors, five shapes, and fifty different objects, and he understood the concepts of "bigger", "smaller", "same", and "different". Alex would even invent new words by combining two words that he knew. For example, the first time he saw an apple he called it a "banerry", by combining the words "banana" and "cherry". Alex also showed remarkable psychological development. His trainer was the animal psychologist Irene Pepperberg. At the time of his death, she said that Alex had the emotional level of a human two-year old. The night before he died, his last words to Dr. Pepperberg were, "You be good, see you tomorrow. I love you." Not bad for a parrot.

Okay, that's all for now. Bye.