

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 779

Hi, guys! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Let's hear the final part of *The Birthday Candle* today.

"Get back!" said Dad.

"Look out!" said Mum.

The candle went pop! An enormous flower shot out of it.

"Happy Birthday!" said Mum. "This candle was just a bit of fun."

"Here are seven candles," said Mum. "Let's all sing Happy Birthday!"

All right, that's it for today. Glad that they got seven candles, huh? See you guys next time, bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 779

Hello, everyone, and welcome back to PR1!

Today we will learn effective ways to fight humidity if we want to keep our hair nice and straight.

First, we can use humidity-blocking products. These can be found at the local drugstore. Another way is to use hydrating shampoos, conditioners, and oils to moisturize our locks. If this is tiring, you can try ionic combs, which can be found at 100-yen shops. They can help seal our cuticles and prevent frizz. Lastly, getting a trim is an important step for keeping the hair healthy.

I did not know that there were so many different ways to prevent frizz! Maybe I can try them next time. If you have any other tips, please let me know!

That's all for today, see you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 779

Hey, guys! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, you will listen to a story about the animal language.

A famous critique of the assertion that animal[s] can learn language[s], however, was made by animal scientist Herbert Terrace, using his own work with a chimpanzee. He argued that scientists confuse animal behavior with language. They [distort] the evidence by interpreting behavior with the analogy of human language, disregarding more economical explanation[s]. Closer inspection of the alleged use of language, however, suggests that animals simply learn that using a certain sign leads to a certain reward. There is nothing informative about the behavior and it does not express concepts like human language. Terrace's argument was widely influential and led many animal scientists to become much more cautious in their claims about animal abilities.

But how about looking at things the other way around? Instead of trying to teach human language to animals, why not try to learn to understand animal languages. In fact, many scientists have also been studying this question for years. According to one group, sea lions emit different sounds in order to communicate ideas to their fellows. There is disagreement, because such claims are so difficult to prove. If true, though, then perhaps one day we may indeed be able to chat with our pet dogs just by learning to bark.

That is all for today, bye-bye!