

Dictation Contest (PR Jr, 初級) No. 780

Hello! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, we're going to hear a conversation between friends. Let's begin.

Can you take me to Tokyo station, Rio?

Sorry, Luke. I'm busy now. Can't you take a train?

I don't have enough money to go.

I see. How about taking a bike?

If I could, I [would] but... Simon is using my bike, so I can't. I will take the bus.

Ok, I will see you later.

That's all for today. How was it? See you next time! Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 780

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, let us talk about ocean mammals. Let's start!

Dolphins and whales aren't fish. They have lungs and breathe air like we do, so we call them air breathers. They are mammals, just like us. They have a blowhole on the top of their heads to make it easier for them to breathe when they are under the water. They are very smart and can do tricks like balancing a ball or jumping through hoops. In fact, they are so smart that they can talk to each other. Though, unfortunately, we humans still do not have the ability to understand their language.

Well, that's it for today. We'll look more into how scientists are making efforts to communicate with marine mammals next time. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 780

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2!

Plant lovers believe that talking to plants helps them grow. Scientists have discovered there could be a grain of truth in this belief. Researchers have discovered that plants emit sounds when they are stressed. The noises are akin to a human cry or scream. The scientists believe the sounds are specific enough for us to be able to interpret them and to attend to their needs. Unfortunately, plant sounds are at too high a frequency for the human ear to pick up. Humans can only hear frequencies of up to 16 kilohertz. The scientists used special AI algorithms to detect ultrasonic sounds emitted by plants that were up to 250 kilohertz. The AI also differentiated between different types of plant sounds.

The research was conducted in an acoustic chamber in an adapted greenhouse at Israel's Tel Aviv University. Scientists discovered that vibrations from stressed tobacco and tomato plants turned into sound waves. Lead researcher Professor Lilach Hadany said: "Plants usually emit sounds when they are under stress. Each plant and each type of stress is associated with a specific identifiable sound." She suggested that fields of crops could be quite noisy, saying: "While imperceptible to human ears, the sounds emitted by plants can be heard by bats, mice, and insects." Interpreting these sounds could help us understand when crops are dehydrated. Farmers could irrigate their crops more efficiently, and thus conserve water.

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