

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 815

Hi, everyone! This is PR Junior. Are you ready?

My favorite amusement park is Space World. It's in Fukuoka, in Japan. My family and I live about 50 kilometers away. It's open all year. The spring and fall are the best seasons to visit. There are lots of rides at Space World. The Ferris wheel looks like a big planet Earth. I love the Rocket roller coaster – they say it goes at the speed of light. My sister likes the water slide. The restaurants sell Japanese food and American food, and the stores sell candy and gifts.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 815

Hi, guys, and welcome back to PR1.

I believe we all have a bathtub at home, but have you ever wondered who started using it? Let's find out about the origin of [the] bathtub together!

In 1883, an American man by the name of John Michael Kohler invented the world's first bathtub. He took a cast-iron horse trough and added four decorative feet to the bottom of it and covered it in an enamel finish. Their company originally focused on producing products that were made from steel or iron, however, that very quickly changed when John Michael Kohler created the first modern claw-foot tub in enamel. Over time, and as things started to change, the once popular claw-foot tub seemed to slowly change into the modern built-in tub with an apron front.

That was the story of bathtub. I hope you enjoyed it. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 815

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

Now, one of the most important things in life is sleep. A good amount of sleep can benefit us mentally and physically – both internally and externally – and it's actually something that I struggle with a little bit, as I often can't seem to get quite enough sleep. And I am, therefore, very jealous of certain members of the animal kingdom who seem to sleep all day. But that isn't the case for these particular animals. Take a listen to this:

Sleep is a precious activity for people and across the animal kingdom, indispensable even as its biological purpose remains somewhat mysterious. We spend about a third of our lives asleep. But some animals slumber a lot less – with certain species like the northern elephant seal taking sleeplessness to an extreme. Researchers in a new study described the unusual sleep habits of this species, finding that during Pacific Ocean foraging journeys that can last seven months, these bulky marine mammals sleep just two hours a day – cobbled together from naps of about 10 minutes each as they dive deep to avoid predators.

Huh, that's interesting because looking at elephant seals you might assume that they're very lazy – being very big and bulbous, and rolling around on the beach for most of the day. And so that's why, when I was young, I was often compared to an elephant seal by my parents for sleeping too much, when actually... ahh, well, I guess I am still fairly similar in the sense that I don't sleep enough.

Alright, guys, well, until next time – and as always – study hard, stay safe, and I'll see you soon.