

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 823

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

The tale of Peter Rabbit

Peter Rabbit is the main character of this book. He lives with his mother and three sisters, Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail. Peter is a naughty rabbit. He often gets into trouble.

The author of Peter Rabbit is Beatrix Potter, She wrote a story in a letter to a sick boy.

This letter is the origin of the popular Peter Rabbit book series. All the stories in the series have many animal characters.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 823

Hey, guys! How's it going?

Well, we have officially entered the rainy season here in Japan, which people say is around June and July. However, last year – and pretty much every other year I can remember – it also rained a lot in August. And in September. And October and November! So, I'm starting to think that Japan doesn't just have one rainy season, but several rainy seasons throughout the year. Either that, or Japan has one really long rainy season that lasts for about half the year. The good thing about having a rainy season is that it rains a lot at one time, making it easier to predict the weather and make plans. But I don't think that's the case in Japan.

What do you think? Let me know, okay? See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 823

Hi, everyone! Today I will continue talking about philosophy. Let's begin.

Given that philosophy's foundational questions and methods are still far from settled – they never will be – it's natural that there is more flux, more volatility, in philosophy than in the physical sciences. But this volatility is not like the paradigm shifts described by the US historian of science Thomas Kuhn. A better analogy, in fact, would be changes of fashion.

When thinking about fashion in philosophy, there are four basic categories under which texts, thinkers and ideas can be grouped. By considering the interrelation of these groups, we can begin to glean how an idea becomes fashionable. The four categories are the fashionable, the foundational, the prohibited, and the unfashionable.

The thinkers and texts that fall into the foundational category are those that a student “must know”. Their thought is bedrock. Plato, perhaps, is the best example of a foundational thinker. The English philosopher Alfred North Whitehead said in 1929 that “the European philosophical tradition... consists of a series of footnotes to Plato”.

Of course, when there is something that everyone “must know”, it is often the case that very few people know it very well. Rigorous readings give way to widespread assumptions and generalisations.

That's all for today! See you!