

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 836

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

This is the second part of a story called *French Adventure*. Let's begin!

After school Mum came to meet Bill and Charlie. Bill had a picture of Paris.

"We are doing a project on France," he said.

Later Nadia and Annie came to play with Bill and Charlie. Annie had a model of the Eiffel Tower.

That was all for today. I hope you liked the story and I'll see you next time! Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 836

Good afternoon, and welcome back to PR1!

How is everything going?

So, have you ever heard of the phrase "April showers bring May flowers"? This came from England where it rains heavily in April to reveal beautiful flowers in May. The timing is a little off in Japan, but let's talk about current seasonal flowers in Tokyo.

Until mid-May, you can see azalea flowers and iris flowers. Iris is said to be Emperor Meiji's favorite.

From mid-June to mid-July, you will see hydrangeas, my personal favorite, decorating the streets of Japan in purple, blue, and pink. Later in July we should also expect lotus flowers.

What is your favorite summer flower? Let me know next time! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 836

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

We often talk about the natural world in these PR2 dictation videos – sometimes covering stories about exciting new discoveries, and sometimes covering stories about the devastation of the environment. Today's story isn't about some new paleontological discover, unfortunately, but it is still rather positive news I think, which is nice, isn't it? So, take a listen:

Australia plans to create a marine park almost the size of Spain around remote islands off its southeast coast, the government announced June 4th. Under the proposals, the existing Macquarie Island Marine Park will be tripled in size, bringing a total of 475,465 square kilometres under protection. That is an area roughly the size of Spain or Cameroon and much larger than Japan. The protections mean the area will be “completely closed to fishing, mining, and other extractive activities,” according to Environment Minister Tanya Plisbersek. Macquarie Island sits halfway between Australia and Antarctica.

Ah, so that's quite good news, isn't it? It's surprising how few areas of the world are completely closed off to human activity, and so I think we should be doing more to create these large, untouchable areas where nature is allowed to thrive unimpeded and unbothered.

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