

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 847

Hello, everyone! This is PR Junior. Are you ready? Let's start!

London has many famous places. My favorite place is the tall clock tower. It holds four small bells and on big bell, Big Ben. The bells play a short melody every hour. You hear it at school every day. Edinburgh holds many famous festivals in the summer. One festival has traditional music concerts. Performers wear kilts and play the bagpipes. At another festival, you can enjoy new art. Some street performers do magic tricks. Others dress up as statues. Edinburgh is a great place.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 847

Welcome back to PR1! Today we'll be discussing airplanes and fuel prices. Let's begin.

Airlines have trouble making money when fuel prices rise, forcing them to explore new ways to save money. In particular, airlines are trying to make their planes less heavy in the air so they burn less fuel. They have cut down on the number of blankets they carry, and removed unnecessary objects, such as free magazines, from the cabin. One unlikely way to save money was to put smaller canned drinks on board. Reaction from customers has so far been good for the companies. Many customers hardly notice the changes and are more concerned about arriving at their destination without delays.

Okay, that's all for now. Have a great day, and I'll see you in class. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 847

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR 2!

Today I am going to talk about happiness. Let's begin!

We live in an age of stark contradictions. The world enjoys technologies of unimaginable sophistication; yet has at least one billion people without enough to eat each day. The world economy is propelled to soaring new heights of productivity through ongoing technological and organizational advance; yet is relentlessly destroying the natural environment in the process. Countries achieve great progress in economic development as conventionally measured; yet along the way succumb to new crises of obesity, smoking, diabetes, depression, and other ills of modern life. These contradictions would not come as a shock to the greatest sages of humanity, including Aristotle and the Buddha. The sages taught humanity, time and again, that material gain alone will not fulfill our deepest needs. Material life must be harnessed to meet these human needs, most importantly to promote the end of suffering, social justice, and the attainment of happiness. The challenge is real for all parts of the world. As one key example, the world's economic superpower, the United States, has achieved striking economic and technological progress over the past half century without gains in the self-reported happiness of the citizenry. Instead, uncertainties and anxieties are high, social and economic inequalities have widened considerably, social trust is in decline, and confidence in government is at an all-time low.

That's all for today! See you!