

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 853

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior. This is the fifth part of a story called "French Adventure". Let's begin!

Annie was excited. "We can go and see the Eiffel Tower," she said.

The children looked for the Eiffel Tower but they couldn't find it.

"Are you sure this is Paris?" asked Charlie.

Nadia asked a policeman. "Do you know where the Eiffel Tower is?" she asked.

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. 852

Hi, everyone. Welcome back to PR1. It's fully summer now and it seems that not only Japan but other European countries are also facing the hot weather as well.

Italy, Spain, France, Germany, and Poland are facing severe conditions during the Charon heatwave. Last week, temperatures in Greece reached 38 degrees Celsius and authorities closed the Acropolis to protect tourists from the extreme heat. European Space Agency warned of possible record-breaking temperatures which could be dangerous for some people.

A study shows that last year 61,000 deaths in Europe were due to the heat. Southern Europe expects high temperatures next week, too. A professor from Barcelona Institute for Global Health said that it was important to help people who are at the highest risk. The hot weather is very dangerous to poorer elderly people who don't have money to buy air conditioning.

Please take care of yourself well in this heat. See you in the next video. Good bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 853

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR 2! Today I will continue talking about life satisfaction. Let's begin!

Life satisfaction has remained nearly constant during decades of rising Gross National Product (GNP) per capita. The realities of poverty, anxiety, environmental degradation, and unhappiness in the midst of great plenty should not be regarded as mere curiosities. They require our urgent attention, and especially so at this juncture in human history. For we have entered a new phase of the world, termed the Anthropocene by the world's Earth system scientists. The Anthropocene is a newly invented term that combines two Greek roots: "anthropo," for human; and "cene," for new, as in new geological epoch. The Anthropocene is the new epoch in which humanity, through its technological prowess and population of 7 billion, has become the major driver of changes of the Earth's physical systems, including the climate, the carbon cycle, the water cycle, the nitrogen cycle, and biodiversity. The Anthropocene will necessarily reshape our societies. If we continue mindlessly along the current economic trajectory, we risk undermining the Earth's life support systems – food supplies, clean water, and stable climate – necessary for human health and even survival in some places. In years or decades, conditions of life may become dire in several fragile regions of the world. "Sustainable Development" is the term given to the combination of human well-being, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. We can say that the quest for happiness is intimately linked to the quest for sustainable development.

That's all for today! See you!