

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 871

Hi, guys! Let's continue with the story of *The Ant and the Grasshopper*. Let's begin.

"Why bother about winter?" said the grasshopper. "We have got plenty of food at present."

But the ant went on its way and continued its work.

When winter came, the grasshopper found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing corn and grain from the stores they had collected in summer.

Then the grasshopper knew...

The moral of this story is that: work today and you can enjoy the benefits tomorrow!

That's all for today. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 871

Hello, everyone. Welcome back to PR1.

Did you know that some spiders engage in a behavior called "ballooning" to disperse and find new habitats?

Young spiders climb to a high point, release silk threads, and let the wind carry them away.

This process allows them to travel incredible distances and colonize new areas.

Research has shown that ballooning spiders can reach altitudes of up to 4 kilometers and travel hundreds of kilometers, using the Earth's electric fields to guide their flight.

This fascinating behavior not only helps spiders find new homes but also contributes to their widespread distribution and adaptation to various environments around the world.

Wow, I think that this may be a good explanation to how spiders are found all around the world, don't you guys think?

That's all for today see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 871

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR 2!

Today I will talk about potatoes. Let's begin!

Just a century earlier, a potato disease prompted a famine that halved Ireland's population in a few years, producing a decades-long cascading effect of social and economic turmoil. And as you read these lines, the world's leading potato producers today are China, India, Russia, and Ukraine, respectively. Despite these nations' intimate and complicated relationships with potatoes, and how intertwined their societies and economies are with them, none can truly call them native. The humble potato was domesticated in the South American Andes some 8,000 years ago and was only brought to Europe in the mid-1500s, from where it spread west and northwards, back to the Americas, and beyond. Indigenous communities in the Andes still have a close relationship with potatoes.

"Despite its origins in the Andes, it's an incredibly successful global food," said food historian Rebecca Earle, who's tracing the potato's planetary journey in a forthcoming book called *Feeding the People: The Politics of the Potato*. "It's grown practically everywhere in the world, and practically everywhere, people consider it one of 'our foods'."

For the rest of the world beyond the Andes, the potato might not be autochthonous, but it feels local. Earle calls it the "world's most successful immigrant", as its origin has become unrecognisable for producers and consumers everywhere.

That's all for today! See you!