

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 877

Hi, guys! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, let me read you the story of A Bundle of Sticks.

An old farmer had two sons who fought all the time. He often told them to stop fighting, but they never listened.

So one day, he had his sons bring him a bundle of sticks and asked them to break them in half. But no matter how hard they tried, they couldn't break the thin sticks.

Alright, that's all for now. See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 877

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1!

Today, you are going to listen to the second part of the text about the race. Let's begin!

The dog wondered why the turtle agreed to run against the rabbit. Being fast was not a characteristic of turtles. The rabbit was going to win easily.

Suddenly, the race began. The rabbit ran extremely quickly. The turtle walked slowly. After a minute, the rabbit looked back. He saw that the turtle was far behind him and was breathing quickly because he was so tired. The rabbit smiled and slowed to a walk.

A minute later, the rabbit said, "I'm winning, so I'll take a rest."

He sat and began to consume some grass. Then, he let his eyes close.

That was all! Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 877

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR 2!

Today I will continue talking about potatoes. Let's begin!

The potato is the world's fourth-most important crop after rice, wheat and maize, and the first among non-grains. How could an Andean tuber persuade the world, in just a few centuries, to adopt it so completely? What made the potato so irresistible was its unrivalled nutritional value, its relative easiness to cultivate as compared to some major cereals, its ability to easily navigate wars and tax censuses due to its knack for hiding underground from collectors, and in particular, its camaraderie with working men and women in the fields. A good place to understand its origins is the Centro Internacional de la Papa (the CIP), or International Potato Center, a research-for-development centre that researches and promotes all things potato-related. It's set in an arid suburb in the Peruvian capital, Lima, and harbours a collection of thousands of potato samples from across the continent. "The Andes is where the biggest genetic diversity lies, but you can find potatoes from Chile to the United States," René Gómez, senior curator at the CIP genebank, told me there. He explained that potatoes were domesticated high in the Andes, near Lake Titicaca, nearly 1,000km south-east of Lima. Following domestications, these early potatoes spread through the cordillera and became a crucial food supply for indigenous communities, including the Inca, particularly as a staple foodstuff called chuño, a freeze-dried potato product that can last years or even decades.

That's all for today! See you!