

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 882

Hi, guys! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, I have Part 2 to *A Bundle of Sticks*.

The father then took out two sticks from the bundle and handed one to each son. "Can you break them now?" he asked. And of course they could.

"You learn an important lesson from these sticks," the farmer said to his sons. "Together, you are strong, but alone, you can be broken easily."

Alright, that's it for this story. See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 882

Hi, everyone! Today I'll move onto the third part about Australia! Let's begin.

Migration is still growing. In 2012, more than 50,000 people went to Australia to stay permanently. Four main types of people settle there. Some go there because employment and business opportunities are better than in their home country. Others are the children, parents, or other relatives of immigrants who have become Australian citizens. A third group is refugees who are escaping from war or political problems in their home countries. Finally, there are also a few Australians who migrated to another country and now want to come home.

At the same time, Australia also sends immigrants to other countries – a smaller number. Each year, about 60,000 Australians go to live permanently in other countries.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 882

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2!

Have any of you wondered why we celebrate birthdays? Who made the decision to honor a person for living... every single year? The answer dates us back to 3,000 BCE – so 5000 years ago!

According to the Hebrew Bible, the first annual celebrations came from Ancient Egypt, which were held on coronation dates, symbolizing the Pharaoh's birth as a 'god.' Such a tradition was adopted by the Ancient Greeks, who offered moon-shaped cakes to Artemis, the lunar goddess. On the cake were candles to give the impression of a glowing cake, and this tradition is still followed in modern times.

However, Christmas was first celebrated 300 years after Jesus' birth, because people believed them to be "evil." Moreover, although Rome is the first society to celebrate non-religious figures' birthdays, it was only for men. Women did not have birthday celebrations until the 12th century. They would hold banquets, exchange gifts, and spend time with family and friends.

While this sounds like the typical birthday party in modern times, German birthday parties in the late 18th century resemble them the most. They referred to it as Kinderfest, which translates to "children's festival," placing candles indicating the birthday boy or girl's age, and another candle to symbolize the year ahead. They also made a wish before blowing them out.

That's all that I have today! Happy early or belated birthday, everyone, and see you!