

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 891

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Jr. It is still muggy outside, isn't it! Yesterday we had a short thunderstorm, so let's learn about how lightning works.

Lightning happens when ice and water particles crash into each other inside thunder clouds. When they crash, they create an electric charge. The electric charge connects with electric charges on the ground, which makes lightning strikes.

So lightning is caused by science, not by the gods! Thank goodness. Anyways, see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 891

Hi, guys! Welcome to PR1.

Let's continue with the article about "Paper ID" Let's get started.

Because such chips are difficult to manufacture, the scientists thought that people would be unable to copy them. The scientists scanned the chips after attaching them to blank pieces of paper. But when they were doing this, one of the chips came off its piece of paper, and the machine scanned the blank paper instead. They found that when the machine scanned the blank paper, it had a pattern that was just as clear as those found on the microchips and every piece of paper has its own pattern that is unique. Therefore, it is possible to tell whether a document is genuine or not without relying on a special chip by keeping a record of these patterns.

That's all for today. See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 891

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

This is Part Three of our talk on memories. Take a listen.

After doing an unrelated task for 20 minutes, half of the participants spent five minutes writing down a description of the bank robber's face, while the other half undertook a task naming countries and their capitals. After this, all the participants were presented with a line-up of eight faces that were, as the researchers put it, "verbally similar," meaning that the faces matched the same kind of description—such as "blond hair, green eyes, medium nose, small ears, narrow lips."

This is different from matching photos purely on visual similarity, which may focus on things that are harder to put into words, such as mathematical distances between facial features. We would expect that the more often we verbally describe and reinforce the appearance of a face, the better we should retain the image of it in our memory. However, it seems that the opposite is more true. The researchers found that those who wrote down the description of the robber's face actually performed significantly worse at identifying the correct person out of the line-up than those who did not. In one experiment, for example, of those participants who had written down a description of the criminal, only 27 percent picked out the correct person out of the line-up.

Okay, that's all for now. I'll see you all in class. Bye!