

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 897

Hello, my PR Junior friends!

Are you enjoying school so far?

As we are seeing more hints of fall, it has surely been much easier to play outside without sweating too much. I love autumn more than summer because there are fewer bugs and more good smelling flowers like osmanthus! I also love pumpkin lattes because they have so many different spices inside.

What about you? Which do you prefer, summer or autumn?

That is all for today. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 896

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR 1!

Today I will talk about herding cattles. Let's begin!

In the huge, open lands of the American West, herding cattle is one way to make a living. The image of the cowboy on his horse is a familiar one, but in reality, [women] also participate in ranch work. This reality can be seen in the rodeo, where cowboys and cowgirls compete in roping young [steer]* and rising adult bulls. Throwing a rope around a [steer] is something ranchers must do to mark the [steers] as their property. On the other hand, riding on the back of a large bull is purely for sport – a dangerous sport! But that danger doesn't stop the men and [women] who love the rodeo.

That's all for today! See you!

* pronounced "stee-ur" (as in 'here' or 'ear')

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 897

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

This is the second and final part of how we, as human beings, can have a severe impact on the environment. Let's begin.

And then, consider that ten million people is but a small fraction of the seven billion people currently in the world. If you could somehow use the feet of all of those people at once, then you could grind meters of rock away in a few moments. A few more repetitions and you'd have an impressive hole. Keep going for a few hours, and you could produce a new valley. This might seem like a rather unrealistic thought experiment, but it does highlight, in a rather literal way, the idea of a carbon footprint, which is a measure of the environmental impact of human actions. When it comes to our carbon footprints, the entire planet is the staircase. Our individual contribution—the energy we consume, the waste we produce—may seem insignificant, hardly something that is going to affect the planet. But when you multiply by seven billion, the small environmental impact of any one person becomes a very weighty footstep indeed. It's not surprising that Earth is as worn down as my old staircase.

Wow, isn't that depressing? We should really start doing our part in helping the environment. But how? Well, for starters, we could try to save electricity and reduce plastic waste. What else can we do? Think about it for a while, okay? Bye!