

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 920

Howdy everyone. Are you enjoying the beautiful fall weather?

Let's learn about Jack-o'-Lanterns today. When I lived in the U.S., my family and I made them every year for Halloween. They are giant pumpkins that are carved to look like faces. On the night of Halloween, we put candles or lights inside to make them glow. I loved making them with my Dad.

Here is a picture of one! Don't they look scary!

Okay, that is all from me. See you again!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 920

Hello everyone! Welcome to PR1. Today I will read you the story about Slums. Let's take a listen.

"Slum" is a word meaning an area of a city with low-quality housing that often lacks basic services, such as electricity and clean water. In developing countries, slums are created when large numbers of poor people move to cities in search of work. According to the United Nations (UN), about one in seven people in the world live in slums. City officials usually consider slums a problem, and the solution has been to try to get rid of them. Now, the UN is asking cities to take a different approach.

That was the first half of the story. Let's continue next time. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 920

Hi, welcome back to PR2. Today's topic is on Lightning. Let's begin.

Clouds often form around particles called aerosols. These tiny particles attract water vapor, causing water droplets to form. When there are fewer aerosols present, water vapor molecules in the air have fewer particles to form around, so each individual water droplet tends to be larger and heavier. Such large droplets create low clouds that release warm rain. When aerosols are present in greater numbers, however, the water droplets are smaller, and there are more of them. And because these droplets are lighter, they can be lifted high enough in the atmosphere that they turn to ice. When this happens, they make contact with other frozen droplets and generate electricity, which is released as lightning. In a thunderstorm, each flash of lightning contributes to producing a harmful greenhouse gas. This fact, along with the harm done to human life and property by lightning strikes, has been motivating scientists to examine the effect of human activities on storm intensity and lightning frequency.

In recent years, a number of data-gathering networks have been established which detect lightning strikes and determine their frequency and location. In reviewing data from one such network, which uses a global system of low-frequency radio receivers to gather lightning data, atmospheric scientist Katrina Virts noticed an almost straight line of strikes occurring across the Indian Ocean between Sri Lanka and the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

This is all for today. See you next time.