

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 924

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Let's read a story about a bush fire today.

"Oh no! Look at all that smoke," said Biff.

A boy ran out of the sea. "There's a bush fire!" he yelled.

He said that they must call the fire service and run back to his house to spray water on the walls and roof. They found a hose and aimed the water at the walls.

Alright, we'll continue in the next movie. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 924

Greetings everyone. This is PR 1.

Today, I went to university to play with some tomato plants. I didn't play with them like a toy, but I did some experiments with them. Did you know that tomatoes have an internal clock, just like us? We wake up in the morning and sleep at night, but so do tomatoes. We know this because tomato leaves open and close throughout the day. I think this is to save energy since they use so much energy converting sunlight into food. This process is called photosynthesis. Since plants rarely move quickly enough for human beings to see with the naked eye, we sometimes use a camera to take time lapses, which is really cool!

Well it looks like we're out of time. See you again!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 924

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, we will continue studying about how mammals and birds keep their body heat. Let's start.

Insulation helps mammals and birds to reduce the flow of heat and lowers the energy cost of keeping warm. Most land mammals and birds react to cold by raising their fur or feathers, thereby trapping a thicker layer of air. Humans rely more on a layer of fat just beneath the skin as insulation; goose bumps are a vestige of hair-raising left over from our furry ancestors. Vasodilation and vasoconstriction also regulate heat exchange and may contribute to regional temperature differences within the animal. For example, heat loss from a human is reduced when arms and legs cool to several degrees below the temperature of the body core, where most vital organs are located.

Hair loses most of its insulating power when wet. Marine mammals such as whales and seals have a very thick layer of insulation fat called blubber, just under the skin. Marine mammals swim in water colder than their body core temperature, and many species spend at least part of the year in nearly freezing polar seas. The loss of heat to water occurs 50 to 100 times more rapidly than heat loss to air, and the skin temperature of a marine mammal is close to water temperature. Even so, the blubber insulation is so effective that marine mammals maintain body core temperatures of about 36-38°C\*. The flippers or tail of a whale or seal lack insulating blubber, but countercurrent heat exchangers greatly reduce heat loss in these extremities, as they do in the legs of many birds.

That's all. Bye-bye!

\* pronounced as “~degrees Celsius”