

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 927

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior. Let's continue the story about Taylor's hobbies.

Last September, the TV broke. After that, Taylor couldn't watch TV. So, he usually did his homework when he got home from school. Sometimes, he read books from the library. When the weather was nice, Taylor played soccer in the park with his friends. On Christmas morning, Taylor opened some presents. One of the [presents] was a new TV. Taylor was happy, but he enjoys his new hobbies, too.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 927

Hello, everyone! This is PR 1. Are you ready? Let's start!

For every common health problem, there is a product you can't live without. At least that's what the advertisers want you to believe. For teenagers with acne or other skin problems, there is a miracle cream. A new shampoo will take care of the dandruff in your hair. And a good, old-fashioned aspirin will take care of your headache or sore throat.

Are you suffering from insomnia? There is a pill to help you fall asleep. And if food won't stay in your stomach at all, drink some medicine to take care of the nausea. Or maybe you ate too fast and now you have the hiccoughs? Well, you won't find anything at the pharmacy for hiccoughs, but you can bet there is a company working on a new product right now.

That's all for today! Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 927

Hi! Welcome back to PR2.

Today's topic is on Stranded Whales. Let's begin.

In January and February 2016, more than two dozen male sperm whales were found washed up on European beaches around the North Sea. These whales had entered shallow waters with sand or mud on the bottom, which prevented them from using sonar clicks to navigate. They became trapped in these shallow areas, and without enough water to support their tremendous weight, their lungs collapsed and the whales died of respiratory failure. It was initially thought the whales had entered the areas in pursuit of squid, a favorite prey food, or that they might have swallowed fatal quantities of plastic. However, these theories were quickly disproved.

After further research, an alternative explanation emerged. Whales use both sonar and Earth's magnetic field to navigate. In December 2015, when sperm whales were migrating south from the Norwegian* Sea, the aurora borealis was visible. These bright lights in the northern sky are caused by storms that occur on the sun, and they are a sign that these storms are strongly interfering with Earth's magnetic field. Such storms can confuse migratory animals such as birds, and probably also caused whales relying on the magnetic field to become disoriented and enter shallow waters.

All the stranded whales were young males. In general, female sperm whales and their babies remain in waters around the Equator. Males, on the other hand, migrate in what are known as "bachelor groups" once they become independent between the ages of 10 and 15.

That's all for today, and I'll see you next time. Bye!

* pronounced "Nor-wee-jun"