

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 941

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today's topic is [about] a camp.

Kate lives with her parents and grandparents. This summer, they went camping by a lake.

They stayed in a tent. Kate's dad set up the tent. Kate picked up wood with her grandfather.

They needed the wood to make fire for a barbecue.

After dinner, they sang song[s] together. When Kate looked up at the sky, she saw many stars. "They are beautiful!" she said.

[That] is all for today! Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 941

Hi, guys! Welcome back to PR1.

Will smoking be totally banned in restaurants in Japan? It's hard to imagine it happening here, but it wasn't so long ago that people thought nothing of driving after having a few drinks.

People realized that it was too dangerous to innocent citizens and now drunken driving is increasingly rare. A decade ago, an American chain of coffee shops opened many branches in Japan.

Despite their no smoking policy, the chain [became] very popular. The success of this company might inspire other restaurants to try their luck with a smoke-free environment.

In North America, smoking is becoming more and more rare. Meanwhile, in Israel, it is illegal to smoke in any restaurant. Family groups and health organization[s] applaud the move, but some people feel the government has gone overboard.

That's all for today, bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 941

Hello, everyone! Today is November 29th, meaning we're just days away from December – A.K.A. holiday season!

I'm sure many of us associate Christmas with Santa's reindeer and snow and Christmas trees and stockings by the fireplace, but that only accounts for the northern hemisphere. December in the southern hemisphere is summertime, which suggests a rather opposite picture. Let me explain further.

A prime example is Australia. People still decorate Christmas trees and leave cookies and milk for Santa Claus, but keep in mind, it's mildly warm outside. Many people celebrate the holiday outdoors at beaches! According to one source, you may find Santa Claus in a swimming suit being pulled by kangaroos! My Australian friend also enlightened me about Boxing Day on the 26th, dedicated [to] unboxing Christmas presents. This day has been commercialized and is a major shopping day for many.

South Africa is another nation in the southern hemisphere that widely celebrates Christmas. Christmas feasts here are a blend of traditional and local flavors, featuring roasted meats, yellow rice, raisins, vegetables, and a wide array of desserts. The main character of this event is often a traditional braai, or barbeque in Afrikaans. For dessert, South Africans prepare Christmas pudding, mince pies, and malva pudding. Malva pudding is a warm, gooey, and sweet dessert that complements the savory dishes served during this Christmas feast.

For some reason, I always end up talking about food...

Anyways, we are out of time today, so I'll see you next time!