

Dictation Contest (PR Jr, 初級) No. 944

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, I'm going to talk about quality of information. Let's begin.

Nowadays, a large amount of information is available online. However, some of this information is [not] based on fact, so demand for information that can be trusted is increasing. People use such information in everyday life, and in this way, they can make better decisions about things around them. In the internet age, the source of information is becoming more important.

That's all for today. See you soon!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 944

Good afternoon, everyone! How are you all doing today?

I thought it would be a great idea to share with you some sweet facts about sweet osmanthus.

Sweet osmanthus is a flower native to China, Indochina, and south Japan, and it has a strong fragrance that smells like peaches or apricots. It blooms from late summer to autumn, which is why it is associated with the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival. They are often used in Chinese cuisine and traditional medicine. As a matter of fact, dried osmanthus flowers are brewed together with green or black tea leaves to create osmanthus tea, and they are believed to lower blood pressure.

I never knew that osmanthus had so many benefits!

Anyways, I hope you learned something new today. See you again!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 944

Hello, everyone! This is PR2.

Are you ready? Let's start!

The plant known as the serpentine columbine is covered with small hairs called trichomes, which have sticky tips. Insects that land on the hairs get stuck and eventually die of starvation. For many years, the serpentine columbine was a mystery because no one could figure out why the plant kills insects. Unlike carnivorous plants, the serpentine columbine does not obtain nutrition from the prey it captures. The insects simply remain on its surface. The puzzle seems to have been solved by Eric LoPresti of the University of California Davies. His research showed the serpentine columbine is trying to defend itself. A caterpillar called *Heliothis phloxiphaga* eats serpentine columbine leaves and is not trapped by the trichomes. LoPresti found that the leaves were twice as likely to be eaten by the caterpillars if the trapped bugs were removed from the plant. He believes the dead insects attract predators such as spiders, which then eat the caterpillars. Since some carnivorous plants use chemical signals to attract prey, LoPresti wondered whether this was also the case with the serpentine columbine. He prepared one set of containers filled with the stems and leaves of serpentine columbines, and another set of containers that were empty. All the containers were covered with a sticky material that hid the contents and would also trap any insects that visited them. After collecting the containers, LoPresti found that those containing pieces of the plant were 21 percent more likely to contain insects. Therefore, it seems that chemicals work together with the trichomes to trap the bugs.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!