

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 945

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Well, we are now officially in December, which means, for many people, the festive season has started.

Are you looking forward to Christmas? What kinds of things do you usually do during December?

I think many people like going to see Christmas lights and illuminations, while other people start preparing for the holidays by buying food, decorations, and, of course, presents!

What other things do people in Japan do during December? Let me know, okay?

See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 945

Hi guys! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, you are going to listen to a story about eyes and memory.

Scientists have been finding out many different ways to improve memory. In fact, various drugs have now been developed that help people who are suffering from memory problems. Although doctors do not recommend that healthy people use these drugs, there is much evidence that they are doing so. In the U.S., for example, many students are said to use drugs that help improve concentration. Now, however, a British scientist [has] found evidence of a much simpler way to boost your memory. There are two types of memory: recall memory and recognition memory. Recall memory means simply the ability to bring to mind something that you have experienced in the past. Recognition memory, on the other hand, means the ability to recognize exactly where you encountered something.

That is all for today, bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 945

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR2!

Today's topic is about interactions between humans and robots. Let's begin!

Human-robot interaction researchers study relationships between robots and humans, often by running psychological experiments in which they observe human reactions to unconventional robot behaviors. One present-day study measures empathy and moral standing between adults and robots. Children are introduced to an apparently autonomous mobile robot, and together they play a children's game called "I Spy." In the midst of game-playing, lab technicians come in and tell the person and robot that it's time for the robot to go to the closet. The robot complains, saying the timing is unfair and that they are in the midst of a nice game. The technician is firm, and in spite of constant complaints pushes the robot into a closet, turns it off, and shuts the door as the robot ineffectually says, "I'm scared of being in the closet. It's dark in there, and I'll be all by myself. Please don't put me in the closet."

In another human-robot interaction study, researchers wanted to measure the level of destructiveness people can unleash upon seemingly intelligent robots. Student volunteers are introduced to a toy robot that follows the beam of a flashlight and are encouraged to spend some time playing with it. They are told that their job is to test the robot to verify that its genes are worth replicating. The researcher lets the student play with the robot for some time, then announces that this robot is substandard and must be destroyed, giving the student a hammer and literally asking him to "kill the robot now."

That's all for today. See you in the next video!