

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 951

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Last time we talked a bit about the Christmas season in Japan and the U.K.

But one thing that is popular in both countries is the Christmas market.

In the U.K, the Christmas or European markets are a nice atmospheric place where you can buy all kinds of traditional foods, crafts and hot drinks. In Japan, the Christmas markets are a little more basic but still nice. However, they become so popular that it is difficult to visit these days. Have you ever been?

See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 951

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR 1.

Today, I will talk about Japanese Baseball. Let's begin.

What could be more American than baseball?

It was one of the earliest sports played in America, created during the mid-18 hundreds. But the Japanese have been playing for nearly as long. In fact, baseball's popularity in Japan rivals its popularity here in the United States.

In the early 1870s, Horace Wilson, an American professor living in Tokyo, introduced baseball to his students. They loved it calling the game Yakyu, which means field ball. It quickly caught on with students all over the country. Japanese leaders also embraced baseball because they thought that it contained elements that were already part of Japanese culture.

So that's all for today. I hope you have a great day. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 951

Hello everyone! We are officially in December!

Looking back at 2023, what are your most memorable moments this year?

Starting from April, the Japanese government lifted COVID-19 restrictions such as the mask mandate, as well as border restrictions. We've welcomed more than 2 million overseas travelers in September alone, which is almost the same as September 2019. Let's take some time to reflect on the major national and domestic events that took place this year.

In February, we returned our beloved panda Shan Shan to China. On serious terms, Turkey and Syria experienced a deadly earthquake at a magnitude of 7.8. Especially with the ongoing conflict in Syria, basic necessities including food, water, and medicine were extremely difficult to reach those in need.

In March, JAXA launched the H3 rocket, which unfortunately resulted in failure. The second engine did not ignite after the first-stage separation, and devastated the countless engineers involved in the project.

Moving on to April, Finland had officially joined NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The country shares a 1340 km border with Russia and was once invaded by the Soviets in late 1939, which is believed to be a rooting cause of their participation in NATO.

I ran out of words again, so this is all for today! Let me know if you would like a sequel. See you!