

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 952

Good afternoon! This is PR Junior.

It is almost Christmas! You probably have seen Christmas trees and decorations at shopping malls and at the train station. I also love the colorful Christmas lights.

Have you begun writing your Wish List for Santa Claus? I wonder what presents you are asking for. Is it a dollhouse, a set of racecars, or a camera? Don't make Santa's elves too busy though!

Anyways, we'll talk more about Christmas another time. Goodbye for now!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 952

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR 1!

Today I will talk about public art in Singapore. Let's begin!

Public art is an enjoyable part of daily life in Singapore. Large sculptures and colorful paintings called murals can be found in parks, shopping centers, and along this island nation's coastlines. The artistic styles range from quite realistic to completely abstract. Some of the art is well-known by artists from other countries, including Fernando Botero of Colombia. His sculpture of a bird represents peace and optimism.

Public art in Singapore is supported by businesses and government, and whether or not people are aware of it, the art contributes to a high quality of life for people in this vibrant and culturally diverse city,

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 952

Hi, everyone! This is PR2. Are you ready? Let's start!

Buying Happiness

Spending money is often a part of the search for happiness. Some people purchase objects such as cars or watches to make themselves feel good. Likewise, money can also be spent on experiences such as taking a vacation or eating an expensive meal.

According to research by Ryan Howell of San Francisco State University, even though more people seek happiness by buying material goods, spending money on experiences tends to make people happier. In his study, Howell talked to individuals before and after they made spending decisions about both material goods and life experiences. Before spending, most respondents expressed belief that an experience might be more enjoyable but a new possession would be worth more to them.

When they were interviewed again after spending, the respondents' answers generally showed that they had changed their minds. The majority reported that life experiences had given them more value for their money. According to Howell, since economic value is usually associated with objects rather than memories, it is difficult for people to estimate the value of experiences beforehand.

The type of purchase alone does not determine how much happiness it brings, however. Howell also found that the reason for making a purchase is strongly related to how much satisfaction people get from their purchases. For example, when people decided to buy and experience based on their personal interests and values, it made them feel better about themselves and more connected to others. On the other hand, when people were motivated to spend money to gain recognition from other people, they reported feeling less satisfaction.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!