

Dictation Contest (PR Jr, 初級) No. 953

Hi, everyone! Welcome to PR Junior.

Today, I'm going to talk about learning about athletes. Let's begin.

Athletes are always trying to improve their performance. Now, there are centres that can help them do this. These places have special devices to record data about various body movements. Experts study such data and by doing so, they learn about the strong and weak points of athletes. This information can be an important tool for improving athletes' performance.

That's all for today. See you soon!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 953

Hey, guys! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, you are going to listen to a story about Valentine's Day.

Nobody seems to know for sure who Saint Valentine was or when exactly he lived, and yet we celebrate Valentine's Day in countries as far apart as the U.S. and Japan. It seems clear that a person by the name of Valentine lived and [that] people were impressed because he was a Christian. The most popular story is that he was a priest and secretly married Christian couple[s] in ancient Rome. In less well-known [stories], he signed his letter[s] from prison "I love you." But in all the legends, he was killed for his [beliefs]. In America, children celebrate Valentine's Day by exchanging cards and heart-shaped candies.

That is all for today, bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 953

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

There seems to be quite a lot of space-related news going on recently, at least in this particular edition of this particular newspaper, and so I've picked a topic that I think is a little interesting, or at least relevant because it involves Japan – not always a country you associate with space travel but, well, take a listen to this:

Japan will provide a subsidy of up to 12 billion yen to moon exploration startup ispace as part of a grant program for innovative ventures, industry minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said on October 20th. Tokyo-based ispace aims to launch its second moon lander next year and start a NASA-sponsored moonshot in 2026, following its failed first lunar landing attempt in April this year, when their lander crashed on the moon's surface. The Japanese government's grant will be used to develop a new spacecraft, tentatively called "Series 3", which aims to carry loads weighing over 100 kilograms to the moon's surface by 2027, ispace said in a corporate disclosure.

Ah, you see, there you go. It's good that the Japanese government is still allocating funds to this kind of thing because, as many people would argue, space exploration is quite possibly the most crucial thing to the survival of the human race and arguably the most important thing to spend money on at all – but there are also still plenty of things going on on the Earth's surface that still need attention, so it's always an interesting debate.

What do you think?

Alright, guys, well, until next time – and as always – study hard, stay safe, and I'll see you soon.