

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 959

Hi, everyone! This is PR junior.

Are you ready? Let's start.

Alice is a very outgoing person. She spends a lot of time with her friends. She goes to parties. She goes to movies. She goes to concerts. She's very popular. She also likes sports very much. She plays basketball. She plays baseball. And she plays volleyball. She's very athletic. Alice doesn't stay home alone very often. She doesn't read many books. She doesn't watch TV. And she doesn't listen to music. She's very active. As you can see, Alice is a very outgoing person.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 959

Hello my PR 1 friends! The holiday season is around the corner...have you been good this year?

Let me share the Christmas traditions I experienced during my childhood in the US.

In elementary schools, many teachers like to throw a Christmas party to sing Christmas carols, eat cookies, decorate gingerbread cookies, and watch movies like the Polar Express. On the night of Christmas Eve, I placed homemade cookies and a glass of milk by the fireplace for Santa Claus. The next day, I woke up to wrapped presents under the tree. My family and I gathered in the living room to exchange gifts.

Christmas in Japan is a lot different from the US, and I would love to know how *you* celebrate the holiday season.

Anyways, that's all for today!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 959

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to Pr2! Today I will talk about the secret to why Finland is the happiest country in the world. Let's begin!

"I should not be surprised if an older sauna-goer asks me to scrub their back," says Alexander Lembke, as he talks me through the workings of Finland's oldest working public sauna. "You just do it, help them. There you can see how deeply rooted the sauna is here in the community." Usually Lembke, who describes himself as a "sauna classicist", undertakes heating responsibilities (a seven-hour process that begins at 7am) naked. But seeing as he has visitors, today he is dressed in swimming trunks and sliders, accessorized with a multitude of maritime-themed tattoos.

I have come to Finland to learn about its sauna culture, a tradition so valued that in 2020 it was inscribed on the Unesco list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity. My starting place, Tampere, one-and-a-half hours by train north of Helsinki, has about 60 public saunas in a city of around 250,000 inhabitants, earning it the title of "sauna capital of the world".

Unlike in other countries, where saunas are usually marketed as an expensive activity for the few, in Finland they have a far more everyday role. Many people have saunas in their homes; lots of older Finnish people were even born in saunas. But they are also considered a sacred space and a place to find community as well as peace. Finland has topped the world happiness report rankings for the past six years – could its sauna culture have anything to do with it?

That's all for today! See you!