

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 960

Good afternoon everyone and welcome back to PR junior.

I hope you have enough time during the day to admire the Chamelis. They are currently in full bloom. Chamelis are from eastern and southern Asian countries like China, India, Indonesia, and Japan. They are part of the tea family. Chameli flower tea is good for a healthy heart. I have never tried it before so if you had a taste before, let me know what it is like.

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 960

Hi everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, we are going to learn about a festival in Spain. Let's begin!

The most spectacular of Spain's thousands of festivals must be Valencia's Fallas Fiesta, a two-day event celebrating the end of winter. The Fallas Fiesta and street party start at noon on St. Joseph's Day, 19th March, with a huge explosion of fireworks. Then there are contests for the best paella, a traditional Valencian rice dish. People gather in the streets to admire the costume of the men dressed up as the Moors who occupied the city until the 13th century. In the months before the fiesta, craftsmen create around 370 sculptures, the fallas, which are detailed caricature of local people. At midnight, when the fallas are burnt, the burst of flames and fireworks symbolically forces out the winter.

That's all! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 960

Hi, everyone! This is PR 2! Are you ready? Let's start!

Thai elephants

Elephants have traditionally been used as working animals in Thailand, especially for the logging industry in the northern part of the country. In 1989, however, logging was banned because of concerns about deforestation, leaving the animals and their owners without work. Meanwhile, the tourism industry has presented an alternative. Desperate to make money, many elephant owners now offer sightseers the chance to ride their animals or watch them perform tricks. It is estimated that over 2,000 elephants in Thailand are involved in such work today. Working elephants are considered domesticated in Thailand. Truly domesticated species, such as dogs and horses, have been specially bred so that they inherit characteristics that make them calmer, and therefore easier for humans to control. Elephants, on the other hand, have never been bred in this way. Working elephants in Thailand are no different genetically from wild elephants. They are tamed using a method known as "the crush," in which young animals are locked in a small space, starved, and beaten until they obey human commands. Sangduen Chailert is an activist who runs an elephant rescue and rehabilitation center in northern Thailand. She believes the method currently used by trainers in Thailand to tame the animals may have the opposite effect. "I do not believe elephants need to taste pain to learn how to listen," says Chailert, who points out that harsh practice can make elephants aggressive and dangerous. Her gentle training methods have won her fame throughout the world. Though her facility can assist only a small number of elephants, her work has raised global awareness of the issue.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!