

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 966

Good afternoon, my PR Junior friends!

A month ago, I bought a new squishy mattress with fluffy sheets. It is so comfortable that I forgot to wake up in the morning! I had slept for 8 hours, which is long for an adult like me.

By the way, elementary school students need about 9 to 12 hours of sleep.

Are you getting enough sleep? Good sleep is important for your growth, so I hope you are!

See you another time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 966

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR1.

Today I will tell you the story about animals. Let`s take a listen.

Nearly every child and adult enjoys the zoo, but how about the animals? Many people wonder if it is cruel to remove animals from their homes and confine them behind bars and trenches where thousands of human beings stare at them.

In certain ways, animals may fare better in zoos than in their natural surroundings. Wild animals may be underfed. Some must roam far and wide to find sufficient food. Some wild animals suffer from wounds or disease. Most animals must be on guard constantly against enemies. After a few weeks in a zoo, the steady food supply, clean living quarters, and medical care often give rise to an improvement in the physical health and appearance of captive animals.

That`s all for today. See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 966

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR2!

Today we will continue the topic about interaction between human and robots. Let's begin.

Researchers then measure the level of destructiveness by counting the number of total hammer hits and the final number of fragments of crushed robot. There are early, and very eerie, projects dedicated to understanding how we think of robots, and where we place seemingly autonomous robots in our system of ethics, empathy, and action. In science fiction, the problem is reversed. In Philip K. Dick's novel, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* and the movie adaptation of his work, *Blade Runner*, bounty hunters try to find and destroy renegade replicants – engineered beings with android brains. But replicant engineering has advanced to the point that these creatures are nearly indistinguishable from humans, yet they are enslaved in a system whose moral justifications are failing. Dick invented the Voigt-Kampff machine as the key tool for discriminating humans from replicants in this world. The machine works by [detecting] physiological responses to carefully worded questions during an interrogation, measuring the empathic response of the subject. So in fiction, the one solitary gap that remains between humans and androids is emotional: empathy. Of course, the story is powerful because it breaks down even this one final distinction, leaving us to question the extent of our human rights and liberties. But the irony is that, in our present-day nonfiction world, researchers are still busy trying to ascertain* our human emotional response to robots. We do not even understand human empathy in the mixed-species world of humans and robots yet, let alone the emotional qualities of robots themselves.

That's all for today. See you next time!

* Pronounced "ass-er-tayn"