

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 968

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior!
Today I will talk about carnivals. Let's begin!

Carnival is a festival that takes place before the Christian season of Lent, 40 days before Easter. The date changes every year, but it is usually in February and March. It is the last chance to have some fun before Lent begins. Around the world, people celebrate carnival in different ways.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 968

Hello, every one! Welcome back to PR1.
Let's continue the story of "The Big Apple".

If you are interested in Oriental Art, you might like the Japan section. One day is never enough to enjoy everything in this museum. If you are a person who loves musicals, the Big Apple may be your paradise. There are many musical theaters in the center of the city, and you can see many world famous plays. Even if you don't perfectly understand English, you can enjoy music and dancing. If you are interested in architecture, there are many interesting buildings in the city. The Empire State Building is a beautiful, tall building built many years ago.

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

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 968

Hi, guys! Welcome back to another movie of PR2.

Today I'm going to talk about a very unique housing system in Singapore. Let's begin.

Nearly 80% of Singaporeans live in flats administered by the Housing and development board, or HDB, giving HDB flats international recognition as one of the most successful affordable housing models in the world.

The HDB is a public housing authority established in February 1960 under Singapore's national development ministry in response to a housing crisis.

Upon its establishment, the HDB's most urgent task was to provide low-cost public housing to a growing population, particularly low-income groups who lived in high-risk dilapidated housing structures with overcrowded, unsanitary living conditions.

Within its first five years, the HDB launched more than 51,000 housing units and set aside at least 10,000 low-cost flats for low-income groups located near central areas where many in the community worked.

Today, over a million HDB flats have been completed in 23 towns and three estates. HDB flats were put under different systems to maintain fair allocation, namely the "waiting list system", the "booking system", the "registration for flats system", and now, the "build-to-order system", or BTO. Flats under the BTO system are only constructed once 65% to 70% of the units have been booked, with waiting time going up to four years from the date construction begins. To build a new flat, the government acquires and develops land to convert it into a residential site. This is how Singaporeans normally have access to affordable flats. HDB also provides rental flats to lower and middle-income families based on a directive from the ministry.

That's all for today. Goodbye!