

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 970

Hello, my friends! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, we are going to hear a conversation at home. Let's begin!

Mom: Tadashi, how was your baseball practice today?

Tadashi: I marked 93 miles [per hour] at the pitching practice!

Mom: Wow! That's your new personal best!

Tadashi: I will practice more and become [the] best baseball player in the world!

Mom: Nice, but you must clean your room before that.

Tadashi: Cleaning my room has nothing to do with baseball, mom.

Mom: No, it is so important.

That's all for today. Hope to see you soon! Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 970

Hi! I was thinking of different ways to begin this video, like "Greetings!" or "What's up everyone," but after a long discussion with Tim, I couldn't think of anything. Let's begin without further ado!

I came across an article stating that the world population has passed 8 billion! Is this good or bad? When I was in grade school, my teachers taught me that it was 7 billion. Within the last decade or so, the national population has greatly increased in China and India. The United States, Indonesia, and Pakistan are also mildly growing. On the other hand, Japan's population is shrinking. Gender inequalities make it difficult for couples, especially women, to have children.

Sorry about the negative conclusion. We'll talk about something fun next time! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 970

Happy New Year! And welcome back to PR.

Today, our video is going to be about the Coming of Age Day that was held [a] few days ago. Take a listen!

Every year the national holiday that follows the New Year's Day is "Coming of Age Day". For 50 years from 1949 to 1999, the day was fixed on January 15, but it was moved to the 2nd Monday of January in 2000. On 'Coming of Age Day', each municipality in the whole country invites all young people who reach the age of majority – 20 years old – to a ceremony known as 'Seijin-Shiki'. At the ceremony, the participants receive congratulatory messages from the mayor and guests.

On the coming of age day, most young ladies dress up in their "furi-sode", which is a formal "kimono" with long sleeves for unmarried women, while men wear suits or Japanese traditional attire, "haori" and "hakama", and they gather at the halls to attend the ceremony with their radiant faces.

A notable shift occurred in Japan's legal landscape with the government's decision to lower the age of adulthood from 20 to 18 years in 2022. This change reflects a broader move towards aligning with international standards and empowering younger individuals with more autonomy. However, the legal ages for drinking, smoking, and [gambling] remain at 20. The implications of this legal shift on Seijin-no-hi are intriguing. With many 18-year-olds still in high school and preoccupied with final exams, there's a debate whether the Coming of Age Day celebrations should continue to be held at 20.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!