

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 977

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, let me tell you a fairytale: *Drippy*.

When Drippy slid to the ground, his mother scolded him. She said, "Drippy, you must stay up there where it's safe".

And she put him back on the top of the blade of grass. But Drippy did not want to stay there. He wanted to run around.

Where is he going? I'm going to tell you next time!

This is all for today. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 977

Hi, guys! Welcome back to PR1.

Today, we are going to listen [to] the old tales of [the] Amazon. Let's begin!

It is said that a magical temple is hidden in the deep forest of [the] Amazon, long forgotten. The only way to reach there is to travel across the long river and go through dangerous forests full with mud and furious wild animals. The temple hides a secret gold and a silver statue. No one must see or touch this statue since it has supernatural powers. Ancient Aztecs prayed for rain and wealth with this statue, and always sacrificed one of their precious bananas. The legend tells that the statue only answers to the one who deserves, and brings their precious banana too. If you wish to find this magical temple, go to the dark forests of [the] Amazon.

That's all for today! How was it? Hope to see you soon! Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 977

Hello, everyone. Welcome back to PR2.

For the past few decades, marine pollution caused by microplastics has been a huge problem. Today, I am going to talk about a new technique that removes microplastics from seawater.

A microfiltration process shows promise in removing microplastics – plastic particles less than 5 millimetres in size – from contaminated seawater. The process, developed by a research team from the Indian Institute of Technology, could potentially be used just before pumping seawater into salt pans, allowing production of plastic-free edible salts. Microplastics from seawater often make their way into edible salts, making the salts potentially harmful to human health.

To find a way to remove such microplastics, the IIT scientists first identified the presence of microplastics in 12 Indian edible salts. They then made synthetic seawater, by dissolving microplastic-laden edible salts in deionized water. The team passed the synthetic seawater through a hollow-fibre membrane filter that contained hundreds of tiny straw-like tubes. Numerous micropores on the tubes trapped microplastics inside, letting plastic-free seawater flow out. The filter, they report, was able to remove almost 99 per cent of the microplastics present in the seawater, without reducing its salt content. The filtered seawater could then be used to make plastic-free edible salts. The filtration technique is cheap and easy to install. It can operate under low water pressure without needing any power. In a separate study, the researchers showed that the filter could also remove drug-based micropollutants from water.

That's it for today! See you.