

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 979

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior!

Today, I will talk about carnivals around the world. Let's begin!

In the US, musicians play jazz and people dance in the streets. In Brazil, samba schools spend a year making fantastic costumes for the Carnival parade. In Italy, they wear beautiful masks. In some parts of Germany, for one day the women take control of the town and cut off men's ties.

That's all for today, see you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 979

Hi. Welcome back to PR 1.

Today, I will talk about a school yard garden. Let's begin.

Have you ever eaten something that you grew in your own garden? Many people have not had the pleasure of this experience.

Alice Waters, the owner of Chez Panisse restaurant, set out to change all that for a special group of students at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School in Berkeley, California. Waters worked with the school's principal, Neil Smith, to create a cooking and gardening program at the school.

Waters believes in the importance of people knowing where their food comes from. She also believes that there is a strong relationship between food, health, and the environment. Her goal at the middle school was to show children the pleasure in gardening and in preparing the foods that they cultivated.

That's all for today. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 979

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR 2.

Today, we will continue the topic about vacuum cleaners. Let's begin.

To operate the cleaner, one man steered the cart while another manned the long, flexible hose. Even when the first home models were later constructed, two people would still be required to operate them. The vacuum cleaner greatly improved sanitation and health. Tons of germ-loaded dust were removed from theater seats, from home and shop floors. One of Booth's first assignments was to vacuum the vast blue expanse of carpet in Westminster Abbey for the 1901 coronation of Edward VII. The church's cleaning staff watched in disbelief at the quantity of hidden dust extracted by Booth's machine. During World War I, Booth received a commission to take several of his vacuum machines to the Crystal Palace, the famous pavilion of London's 1851 exhibition. Naval reserve men quartered in the building were falling sick and dying from spotted fever. Doctors, helpless to halt the contagion, suspected that germs were being inhaled on dust particles. For two weeks, fifteen of Booth's machines sucked up dust from the floors, walls, staircases, and girders of the building; twenty-six truckloads of it were carted away and buried. The vacuum cleaner put an end to the spotted-fever epidemic. Versions of Booth's vacuum machine were in use in the United States during the early years of the twentieth century, some of them superior in design. They were a luxury enjoyed by the wealthy, and their operation required two servants. The idea for a small, handy portable model came to James Murray Spangler, an aging, unsuccessful inventor with a severe allergy to dust.

That's it for today! Good job! See you next time!