

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 987

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

It's getting a little cold these days, isn't it? But do you think we will get some snow?

It very rarely snows here in Tokyo – usually just once a year and not very heavily – but is that a good thing? Do you like the snow?

In the past, I didn't want snow because it causes problems with the trains, but now I want some snowy days so I can take cool pictures.

Do you think I'll get chance this year? Let's see!

See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 987

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR 1!

Today I will talk about "otaku" and how its popularity has grown over the years. Let's begin!

Otaku, a term originating in Japan, has evolved a surprising amount in the past ten-plus years. Otaku, who love anime, games, and manga in the limelight, used to just be seen as strange people. That has now turned into a nation-wide otaku era. Otaku is no longer associated with a negative image.

Sixty per cent of university students identify as an otaku, and 80% of high school girls have a positive impression of otaku. Otaku is now an internationally recognized word, and has spread all over the world.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 987

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR 2!

Today's topic is about lions! Let's begin!

The "King of the Jungle" has a long history as a subject of fascination. They hold a distinctive place in Egyptian culture, and they roamed the semi-desert areas on either side of the Nile until they began to disappear there during the New Kingdom period of roughly 1550-1070 BCE. And even casual readers of history probably know about the Roman Empire's often brutal love affair with lions, in which they were used as deadly entertainment against other animals and even used to kill people. African lions are fully capable of attacking, killing, and even eating humans, and it's generally estimated about 250 people a year die in lion attacks. There are more dangerous animals in Africa. An estimated 500 people a year are killed in hippo attacks, and snake bites kill anywhere from 7,000 to 32,000 people a year. Because these attacks happen in mostly isolated areas, [definitive] numbers are hard to gather. However, the lion estimate rings true with Philip Muruthi, chief scientist and vice president of species conservation and science of the African Wildlife Foundation, [also] known as AWF. He's spent decades studying them and other African animals out of his base in Kenya. But while people might focus on the animal's savage power and killing capabilities, it's the wild lion that's actually in trouble, Muruthi said.

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