

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 990

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today I will share a story called *Book week*. Let's begin.

It was book week in Kipper's school. The students made books in class. Then they made a big picture of the character of the book and glued it on the wall. The next day, an author came to share his book. He was good at reading and made everyone laugh. There was a dressing contest and Kipper was a caterpillar. He was a caterpillar so he only ate apples and lettuce.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 990

Hello, my PR1 friends.

Today, I'd like to welcome Ms. Jiaxin. She and I will talk about Setsubun. Let's begin!

Setsubun means "seasonal division" and is celebrated on the first day of spring in the old calendar. It was brought to Japan from China in the 8th century. Originally, the Chinese custom called *tsuina* was held to shoo away evil spirits. People used to decorate palace gates with clay figures of cows and children.

Today, we celebrate this holiday by throwing roasted beans. The pronunciation of "bean" in Japanese is similar to that of "devil's eye."

Today is February 3rd, so I am planning to create a face mask of the devil. How about you? How will you celebrate Setsubun? Let us know next time! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 990

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR 2.

Today I will talk about food waste in privileged countries and the initiatives led by the UN. Let's begin!

Suppliers often reject "imperfect" foods like bruised bananas, lumpy apples, or tiny fish filets. Supermarkets, restaurants, and catering companies can't perfectly estimate how much they'll sell every week, so good food ends up in the dumpster. As individuals, we often buy more than we need, get full and toss out bits of our dinner, let produce rot in the back of our fridge, forget our leftovers at a restaurant, or throw ~~away~~ food away prematurely because we misunderstand best-by and sell-by dates.

All this waste adds up: Consumers in rich countries waste almost as much food as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa every year. If wasted food were a country, it would be the third-largest producer of carbon dioxide in the world, after the US and China.

Cutting global food waste in half by 2030 is one of the U.N.'s top priorities. That's why the UN is working directly with farmers to combat food loss. The Home Grown School Meals program led by UN uses locally-grown crops, providing a market for farmers' surplus produce. In fact, in 2019 the UN bought over 37 million dollars' worth of food from small-scale farmers, providing them with a vital source of income.

That's all for today! See you!