

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 996

Hello, my PR Junior listeners!

Last Monday, it snowed about 8 centimeters in Tokyo! It is a rare event because Tokyo is usually too warm for snow. Many people were excited about it and made snowmen. Trains and planes stopped, so it took more time to go home that day, too.

My school closed after 3 PM to let everyone go home safely.

How about you? How was your snow day? I would love to know.

See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 996

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today I would like to talk about science.

Genes, the basic parts of cells which are passed down from parents to children, may have something to do with human behavior. In an experiment, scientists put flies into a glass tube and placed a light at the end of it. Some of the flies began flying toward the light, some began walking, and some did not move at all. On the basis of the flies' actions, they were separated into different groups: flies that love light, flies that like light, and flies that like the dark. The researchers found that these three groups of flies had variations in a particular set of genes. This suggested to the researchers that variations in these genes might explain the differences in the flies' behaviors. If genes influence behaviors in flies, why not in humans too?

OK, that is all for today. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 996

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR2!

Today I will talk about otaku culture. Let's begin!

Otaku culture refers to a dedicated and enthusiastic following of various aspects of Japanese pop culture, primarily focused on anime, manga, video games, and related media. It characterizes individuals deeply invested in these hobbies, often with extensive knowledge and collections.

Japan has been a hotspot for cultural phenomena that transcend geographic and linguistic barriers. The Otaku culture is among the most influential phenomena to cross these barriers.

"Otaku" was initially a term used in a somewhat negative way. It was used for people who were overly interested in manga, anime, and other forms of media. Over time, the term "otaku" has changed. It is now used more broadly to celebrate people who are passionate fans of various hobbies and interests.

The exciting otaku culture gives us a deep understanding of Japanese style, social rules, and economy. It has also greatly influenced cultures around the world.

The term "otaku" has a complex history. The term "otaku", which originates from a polite second-person pronoun in Japanese, initially had a derogatory use.

In the past, Japanese people used the term "otaku" to refer to individuals perceived as antisocial due to their extreme interest in niche subjects, particularly anime, manga, and video games. The birth of Otaku culture can be traced back to the 1970s and 1980s, paralleling the rise of manga and anime in Japan.

That's all for today! See you!