

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 998

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, we're with Kaho in a magical forest.

She finds an old circle of stones in the woods. There's also a mysterious castle on a hill nearby. Kaho really likes the stone circle because it feels special and makes her think about the forest's history.

That's all for today's adventure with Kaho in the magical forest. See you next time for more fun stories!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 997

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR 1!

Today, I will talk about Ueno Zoo. Let's begin!

Ueno Zoo is the oldest zoo in Japan and one of Ueno's biggest attractions. The zoo began as a collection of wild animals in the National Museum of Natural History and was first opened as a public zoo on March 20th 1882. Since those early days the zoo has gotten bigger and is now home to over 3,000 animals from 400 different species. However, the most famous animals at Ueno Zoo are its giant pandas. Ueno Zoo today tries to put animals in an environment close to wildlife so that the animals feel comfortable.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 998

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR2!

This weekend will be a long-awaited holiday in China and many countries in Asia, which is the Chinese New Year. So today, I will talk about this festival. Let's get started.

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is a tradition celebrated by Chinese communities worldwide. It symbolizes renewal, family reunion, and the onset of spring, embodying hope, prosperity, and good fortune. Originating from ancient agrarian societies, its timing follows the lunar calendar, typically falling between late January and mid-February.

Preparations begin weeks in advance, with families cleaning their homes to sweep away misfortune and putting up decorations of vibrant red symbolizing luck. The reunion dinner on the eve of the New Year is a central tradition, featuring symbolic dishes like fish for abundance and dumplings for prosperity.

Throughout the festivities, customs such as giving red envelopes filled with money for luck, firecrackers to scare away evil spirits, and dragon dances for prosperity are observed. Visiting relatives and exchanging blessings reinforces the importance of family ties.

Symbolism and superstitions play a significant role, with the color red representing happiness, and avoiding sweeping on the first day to prevent sweeping away good luck. Chinese New Year encapsulates the enduring spirit of Chinese culture, fostering joy, reflection, and unity among communities worldwide, as they eagerly anticipate the arrival of a new year filled with hope and prosperity.

That's all for today. Bye!