

Dictation Contest (PR Jr, 初級) No. 999

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior!

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

In California, there was a party recently. In the party everyone was dressed like anime characters, and they sang animation theme songs.

A lot of foreign tourists visit Akihabara, Tokyo, where they can meet many otakus, and can buy many character items. There you sometimes see people in animation costumes on the street.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 999

Hey, guys! Welcome back to PR 1!

Today, you're going to listen to the history of softball. Let's begin!

Softball was invented as a game to be played rather than watched. It became popular soon after it was invented. For several years, however, it was not very well organized and had no official name. It was called such names as *diamondball*, *indoor-outdoor*, *recreation-ball*, and *playground-ball*. In 1918, the National Amateur Playground-Ball Association was organized to promote the game as an outdoor sport and to draw up rules. In 1926, it was given the name of "softball" but the name did not become official until 1933. However, the term "softball" is not really true anymore, because the modern softball is as hard as a baseball.

That is all for today! Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 999

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR2!

Today, I am going to talk about the history of Sapeurs.

If you haven't heard the term before, Sapeurs are those who are followers of a fashion culture in Brazzaville and Kinshasa. Most are ordinary workers, such as taxi drivers or gardeners, but as Sapeurs they wear dapper designer suits and take great pride in their appearances. Traditionally, most Sapeurs have been men, but recently women and children have also adopted the lifestyle. These flamboyant personalities are treated like rock stars in their communities for the joy and color that they bring. The movement has its roots in the 1920s, when Congolese men started to wear European attire as a means of social mobility and for greater respect under colonialism. In 1922 a man named Andre, returned home to Congo from Paris dressed as a French 'Monsieur'. In a context where Congo was colonized by the French, and many Congolese were still 'naked' and 'uncouth' servants to the elegant and well-dressed French, his appearances in a colorful suit in the 'roaring twenties' of jazz music must have looked surreal in Central Africa. This initiated a social-movement in Brazzaville where servants began to dress like their masters, and embraced [a] European style of fashion as a way of combating colonial superiority. Thus, 'Les Sapeurs' became a political symbol and ideology that can still be seen today. Many men would forego other necessities to dress above their class, and proto-Sapeurs were created.

That's it! See you!