

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1052

Greetings! Welcome back to PR Junior.

It is getting warmer day by day, so I hope you are taking the time to see the beautiful flowers outside! I saw many different types of cherry blossoms or sakura, magnolias, and violets. The magnolias were my favorite because I loved the dark pink color. The magnolias near my house are white. These days, school is making me busy, so I enjoy taking walks and being in nature.

Okay that's all, see you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1052

Hello, everyone, and welcome back to PR1.

In today's digital era where screens and keyboards dominate, we often underestimate the importance of handwriting.

Experts say that handwriting plays a key role in cognitive development, memory retention, and academic performance. Why should children continue to practice writing?

A study published in the National Library of Medicine discovered that handwriting contributes to functional brain development. Writing letters and words is particularly beneficial for young children's brain[s] compared to other forms of sensorimotor practice. Moreover, legible handwriting can lead to better grades, regardless of the content.

According to Krista Griffin, a professor of elementary education, writing helps in the connection between letters and sounds for children. Therefore, opting for pencil and paper over typing on a phone could be advantageous.

That's all for today. See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1052

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR2.

Today I will talk about a conveyor belt that cleans rivers.

Plastic waste pollution is a growing concern all over the world recently, and that is why I am so happy I could share this technology with you!

Ok, so, let's begin.

To stop plastic reaching the ocean, a start-up in Ecuador is using a conveyor belt to skim off and remove plastic from rivers – and working to stop polluters adding plastic to rivers in the first place.

Plastic bottles, sports balls, and what look like the wheels from a toy pram float down the San Pedro River that runs through Quito, Ecuador. They are on their way towards the Pacific Ocean, on a downstream journey repeated all over the world as plastic waste is flushed through rivers into the seas.

However, this particular patch of plastic waste is about to have its journey cut short. It is brought to a stop by a floating barrier in the water, part of a local plastic clean-up technology called the Azure system, which collects plastic from rivers.

Created by the tech start-up Ichthion\*, the Azure system's simple design has the capacity to stop and collect around 80 tonnes of plastic per day. At this particular point in the San Pedro River, the most it's collected in a day has been 1.5 tonnes of plastic and synthetic fabrics – that's roughly the same weight as a female hippopotamus.

"What you take out of rivers, what you find along the riverbanks... the majority of this will all end up in the ocean," says the founder and chief executive\*\* of Ichthion.

That's all for today! See you!

\* Pronounced "ik-thee-on"

\*\* Pronounced "ek-ZEK-you-tiv"