

Dictation Contest (PR Jr, 初級) No. 1053

Hi, guys! Welcome back to another PR Junior.

This is the Part Two of *Pirate Adventure*. Take a listen:

“Oh no!” said Wilf.

“Oh help!” said Wilma.

They looked at the house. The windows were glowing. Biff went to the door.

She put the key in the lock and opened the door.

The children went inside the house.

“It’s a magic house,” they said.

Let’s stop here and move to the next video for Part Three. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1053

Hey, everyone! Welcome back to the PR one dictation challenge!

Italy wants to stop people from using English words in Italian. People could get a fine for using non-Italian words. A government spokesperson is worried about the growth of English words in Italian. He called it "Anglomania". He wrote: "We continue our battle for the use of Italian instead of English." He said English was damaging the Italian language. He wants people to get fined up to 100,000 Euros for using English words. English, around the world, is a very popular language. Many people speak the language, but [does] the preservation of a local language justify the penalty of using English?

What do you think about what is happening in Italy? Do you see similarities here in Japan?

Thank you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1053

Hi, everyone. Welcome back to PR2.

Today we will be talking about the relationship between art and religion.

Throughout history, art has filled various roles, from delivering messages to raising awareness, making statements, or providing entertainment. At times, artists have used symbols that offer a deeper meaning of the images presented in the artwork. One popular form of artistic symbolism is the use of religious symbols. In liberal cultures like the one that flourished during the Italian Renaissance, religious imagery and symbols could be openly depicted, such as Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*. However, there have been times when some religions were not openly accepted, so symbols were often used subversively to undermine the authorities while protecting followers of minority religions from persecution.

One such instance was with early Christians in the Roman Empire, during the first to fourth centuries AD. Despite threats of persecution, early Christians in Rome were determined to continue practicing their religion. These believers hid their ceremonies underground in the tunnels of the catacombs outside the city. Following the common practice of Roman society at the time, they decorated the walls and ceilings of the catacomb chambers with symbolic images that could be interpreted several ways to disguise their beliefs. In order to do so, Christians began borrowing images from more accepted and established religions in the Roman Empire and devising new ways to read these images, easily deceiving the Roman authorities who entered the catacombs.

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