

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1004

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Last time, I told you that I recently visited Ginzan Onsen.

Ginzan Onsen is actually a very small town in Yamagata Prefecture – only one kilometer long – but it is very famous for its beautiful, atmospheric scenery.

There are many old, wooden buildings and warm, glowing lights that look like traditional lanterns. This scenery helped inspire the Studio Ghibli movie *Spirited Away*. But in the snow, it looks even more magical – like something from a fairytale. I definitely recommend visiting this or next winter. See you soon!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1004

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR 1!

Today I will talk about being kind to others. Let's begin!

Being kind to others charges no money. It is a unique characteristic of showing love and caring for others selflessly. It is an act of making others happy without any specific reasons. This act helps in keeping a long-lasting relationship based on honesty and loyalty. We were taught to be kind, be modest to everyone, take up various responsibilities, set our priorities, and make decisions when we were kids. Being kind is a sense of honesty, purity, loyalty, happiness, and integrity. Since we live in a society and share various relationships, we must make sure that our behaviour and actions do not harm others.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1004

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR2!

Today's topic is about whales getting stranded in Osaka bay. Let's begin!

[A] growing number of whales are becoming stranded in Osaka Bay, which is known for its maze-like passages, with experts warning the marine mammals are increasingly likely to swim into the area as global warming progresses. On Monday, the carcass of a sperm whale measuring 13 to 14 meters and [weighing] 25 to 30 metric tons was found in Osaka Bay. The discovery followed ~~the~~ reports of sighting off Kobe a week earlier, with the whale stranded in the bay since late January. In January last year, a sperm whale died after being spotted struggling near the mouth of the Yodo River in Osaka. The body of the 15-meter-long male, referred to affectionately on social media as Yodo-chan, was later sunk off the Kii Peninsula south of Osaka Bay. According to the local ports bureau, all whales that have strayed into the bay have died after being unable to return to the Pacific Ocean. While metallic sounds can be used to chase away whales, the risk of agitating* them means the solution is not ideal. "The only thing we can do is consider in advance how to dispose of the carcasses" a bureau official said.

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

* Pronounced "ah-ji-tate"