

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1027

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Well, it's actually pretty warm today, and so it finally feels like spring.

I thought it was starting to get a little warmer earlier in March, but then it got cold again! So, I'm glad to finally be able to welcome the new season.

I think spring came a little later than usual this year, and so I hope we still get plenty of chance to enjoy the seasonal weather and scenery.

See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1011

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Let's continue the story about environmental problems.

About 70 percent of the shrimp that we eat comes all the way from Asian countries such as Indonesia and India. So, Japan is one of the most important countries to them. Many large boats go to those countries to catch shrimp, but they catch a lot of fish with the shrimp, too. They even catch very small fish. More and more people in those countries are becoming worried about the future. They do not think that they will be able to catch [any fish] in several years. There are some environmental problems with catching shrimp, too. The fish which the large boats catch with the shrimp die soon, and those fish are dumped into the sea, so the seawater becomes less clean.

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

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1027

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to another PR2 video!

Today we will be talking about [the] human mind and machines regarding symbols! Let's take a look!

For decades scientists have tried to understand the mind at a symbolic level – that is, starting from the idea that the thinking process involves using rules to manipulate symbols such as words and numbers. Such an idea can certainly be applied if we want to understand how we solve mathematical equations and make assumptions.

Most people who spend their careers trying to make machines “think” assume that that the rules-and-symbols approach to studying the workings of the world also applies to studying the workings of our minds. They believe that if they could discover the right symbols to stand for the things we think about and the right rules to manipulate those symbols, then they could put them in a computer, and the machine would think.

It's not unreasonable to conclude that since some of our thinking involves using rules to manipulate symbols, then basically all types of thinking involve symbol manipulation. But might it not be the other way around? Perhaps, what we call thinking is a pattern-matching process, which is prone to mistakes. We are poor at doing things that computers do easily and brilliant at doing things that computers have a terrible time with. So manipulating symbols is a sideline, more the exception than the rule.

And that's it for today. See you next time!