

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1028

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior!

Let's learn about Brazilian food culture!

Whether at home or in a restaurant, Brazilians like eating with their friends and family. Brazilians like small cups of strong coffee at any time of the day. They are good at making many different fruit drinks. They always use a knife and fork to eat. They don't eat with their hands. The biggest meal of the day for most Brazilians is lunch. Their dinner is usually lighter than lunch.

That's it. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1028

Hello, everyone, and welcome back to PR1.

Today, we are going to talk about penguins, charming birds known for their distinctive waddle and tuxedo-like appearance.

Penguins are expert swimmers, gracefully navigating the icy waters of the Antarctic. Despite their flightless nature, they are superb hunters, feasting on fish, squid, and krill to fuel their active lifestyles. Penguins also exhibit fascinating social behaviors, forming tight-knit colonies where they raise their young and communicate through a variety of vocalizations and body movements. However, these birds face numerous threats, including climate change, habitat loss, and overfishing. So, in order to ensure their continued survival in the wild, conservation efforts are vital to protecting penguin populations and preserving their icy habitats for future generations to admire.

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

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1028

Hey, guys! How are you doing?

Hope you're all still staying healthy and safe.

I have a news article here that's relevant to all of us because it involves the relationship between the Japanese and English languages, and the way we represent sounds. It's also an article that I found quite surprising, so take a listen:

Japan is planning to revise its romanisation rules for the first time in about 70 years to bring the official language transliteration system in line with everyday usage, according to government officials. The country will switch to the Hepburn rules from the current Kunrei-shiki rules, meaning, for example, the official spelling of Aichi – A.I.T.I – will be changed to A.I.C.H.I. Similarly the official spelling of Shibuya will be S.H.I.B.U.Y.A. The Hepburn system has long been predominantly used in society as well as officialdom.

Yes, it's surprising because I thought this Hepburn romanisation system was already universally in use; I've never seen 'Shibuya' spelt with just an S rather than an 'SH'. I've seen a few examples of the spelling mistake of 'TU' being used instead of 'TSU' in Japanese words like *katsu*, but only in student essays and never in any kind of official use. So, I'm not sure exactly what changes will happen as a result of this revision, but I guess if there are any examples of the old system still remaining, then this will get rid of them.

Alright, guys, well, until next time – and as always – study hard, stay safe, and I'll see you soon.