

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1030

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, let's join Emily on her day at School.

Emily walks into her classroom and sees colorful posters on the walls. She listens to her teacher explain the lesson and raises her hand to answer questions. During recess, Emily plays on the swings and chats with her friends. But what Emily loves most is joining her classmates in a game of tag during lunch break.

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

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1030

Hey, guys! How's it going?

Have you seen any cherry blossoms around the city yet? I think certain varieties of sakura could be seen as early as the middle of last month, but the majority of Tokyo's cherry blossom trees have only just started to bloom.

Here in Kunitachi, we have a lot of cherry blossom trees that attract lots of visitors every year, but at the time of recording this video, they've barely begun to flower! I think they will be in full bloom a couple of days from now, which is much later than the initial sakura forecast.

Have you already seen some cherry blossoms around where you are? Do you have any favourite viewing spots in and around the city? Please share your tips with me so I can enjoy the season as much as possible

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See ya later!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1030

Hello, everyone. How are you all doing?

I'm sure every school has a different academic calendar, but I hope you are almost finished with exams and are diving into spring break!

Today, let's learn about the history of White Day – a holiday unique to Japan!

White Day was not actually established until the 1980s, when the Japanese National Confectionery Industry Association successfully campaigned to implement a 'reply day' for men to reciprocate the presents they received from women on Valentine's Day.

The day was so named because the color white is considered a symbol of purity and is closely associated with an innocent kind of teen love in Japanese culture.

By the way, here are some recent trends regarding Valentine's Day.

Although it has become traditional for girls to give chocolates on Valentine's Day and boys to reciprocate on White Day, many Japanese women have recently been pushing back against what they see as a stressful practice of 'forced giving'.

The unease is mostly directed towards the practice of giving "Giri-choco", as women often feel immense pressure to spend thousands of yen on chocolate to avoid offending bosses and co-workers. In response, many companies in Japan have banned the practice to minimize perceived harassment.

Perhaps to express solidarity, an increasing number of Japanese men are also opting to forego the expected White Day gifts and instead give spouses, girlfriends, or crushes "Gyaku-choco" on Valentine's Day instead.

Okay, that is all that I have today. See you next time!