

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1103

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior!

Today I will talk about how people eat fruits. Let's begin!

People and many wild animals eat fresh fruits. Fruits are important sources of fiber and vitamins, especially vitamin C. They have minerals and a lot of water.

People also eat frozen, canned, and dried fruits. They make fruits into jams and jellies. They add fruits to a lot of desserts and main dishes. People also drink the juice of fruits.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1103

Hi there! Welcome back to PR1.

The crisis of low birth rate is starting to have effects on businesses now. Apparently, Chinese baby companies are having problems. Take a listen to the details of this news [story] together

Chinese companies that make products for children are expanding their product lines to include adult and pet clothing.

The country's falling birth rate is a result of the one-child policy that lasted from 1980 to 2015. The government raised the limit to three children in 2021, but couples are still not having babies. A CEO of a Shanghai children's clothing brand expects sales to go down in the next three to five years.

Customers worry that their favorite brands may go bankrupt as a result of the changes in the industry. Experts predict a bad future for baby companies in China.

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

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1103

Hey, everyone! Welcome back to the PR2 dictation challenge!

The Ōnin War.

By 1467 the Ashikaga dynasty of shoguns in Japan had grown so weak that a succession dispute provided the trigger for a civil war, the Ōnin War, and the collapse of central authority. The civil war, largely fought within the imperial capital of Kyōto, was the precursor of the so-called Age of Warring States.

The Ōnin War was fought between the families of two samurais who were close to the Ashikaga Shogun. Each had a mansion that acted as a military base within Kyōto, where the Shogun was also located. The first was Yamana Sozen, nicknamed the Red Monk. His rival was his son-in-law, Hosokawa Katsumoto. The spark for their conflict was a succession dispute within the Shogun's own family. The fighting began when the Hosokawa family attacked the mansion of Isshiki, one of the Yamana generals, that lay across the street. The battle consisted of arrow exchanges, swordplay, and the use of fire. Soon the rivals were facing each other across a charred wasteland. Sporadic fighting took place for about a year.

The recently renewed contact with China, severed during the Mongol invasions, allowed several Chinese weapons to appear in Japan. The first were exploding arrows launched by catapult, while in 1468 there is a record of fire-spears being used.

The Ōnin War dragged on with sporadic attacks as the fighting spread to neighboring provinces. Where the families had fought, looting mobs moved in, leaving the imperial capital almost in ruins. Yamana and Hosokawa both died in 1473, but by then the cause of their dispute was almost forgotten.

Thank you!