

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 43

- Kei:** Hey, Tim! Have you been anywhere in Japan apart from Tokyo?
Tim: Yes, I have.
Kei: Where have you been?
Tim: I have been to Osaka, and Kyoto, and Nara, and Nagano, and Hokkaido, and I have also been to Mt. Fuji. And I've even climbed to the top.
Kei: Wow. Have you been to Okinawa?
Tim: Ah, no, I haven't. But I really want to go.
Kei: Yeah, you should!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 43

- Kei:** Hey, Tim! Have you been anywhere in Japan other than Tokyo?
Tim: Yeah, I've been to Osaka, and Kyoto, and Nara, and Nagano, and Hokkaido, and a few other places.
Kei: Can you recommend any good places to go that are not so far from Tokyo?
Tim: Hmm, well, Hakone is pretty close to Tokyo. It's famous for its hot springs, but it also has good views of Mt. Fuji, and you can take a ride on a pirate ship! Another place that's just outside of Tokyo is Kamakura. If you like visiting shrines or just walking around the countryside, I think you will like it.
Kei: OK, sounds good! Thank you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 43

Hey, guys! How are you doing? Hope you're all staying healthy and careful.

Now, the coronavirus pandemic has dominated the news over the past few months and is at the front of everybody's concerns and fears. But have you heard of any other scary news stories recently? There was a massive swarm of locust traveling from Africa to Asia; in America, there is a supervolcano poised to explode at any moment, and a swarm of killer hornets arriving – although that's not really a serious problem; and New Zealand, a country that had one of the best responses to the coronavirus outbreak, is now dealing with earthquakes. Listen to this:

New Zealand's capital shook for the second consecutive day on May 26th after a magnitude 5.2 earthquake hit Wellington, data from monitor GeoNet showed. A slightly stronger 5.8 magnitude quake struck the capital May 25th while Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was doing a live TV interview. She calmly continued with the program and later confirmed there had been no damage. New Zealand lies on the seismically active "Ring of Fire", an arc of volcanoes and ocean trenches encircling much of the Pacific Ocean.

Hmm, OK so it sounds like it wasn't too serious, but let's hope the world can return to normal pretty soon, hmm?

OK, guys. As always: study hard, stay safe, and see you soon.