

Dictation Contest (PR Jr, 初級) No. 875

Howdy, everyone! Are you all staying cool?

Let's talk about summer vegetables today!

I like zucchinis and tomatoes, how about you?

There are lots of delicious vegetables, like cucumbers, eggplants, bell peppers, and more!

Eating these in a salad with olive oil and salt, or topping them on cold noodles are some of the many ways to enjoy them. Japan is blessed with a climate perfect for growing a wide variety of vegetables.

Anyways, that is all for today. See you!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 875

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today I will move onto the second part about Australia. Let's begin!

In 1787, the British government started sending criminals and poor people to Australia.

Later, free settlers came to Australia to start farms. In 1850, gold was discovered there, and more and more people came from Europe and China hoping to get rich. Most of them never returned home, so the population began to grow. Australia has a huge amount of land, and in the 1940s the government decided that the best way to develop the country was to invite more settlers to come from Europe. To attract immigrants, they offered money and other forms of help. Several hundred thousand Europeans who had lost their homes in World War 2 moved to Australia then.

That's all for today! See you!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 875

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR2.

Today we'll be having a little discussion on fake news and the impact it has on how people think. Let's begin.

Consider the role of the Internet here: when people see many tweets or posts from like-minded people, they are strongly inclined to accept a rumour as true.

What can be done to reduce the risk that these two processes will lead us to accept false rumours? The most obvious answer, and the standard one, involves the system of free expression: people should be exposed to balanced information and to corrections from those who know the truth. Freedom usually works, but in some contexts it is an incomplete remedy. People do not process information in a neutral way, and emotions often get in the way of truth. People take in new information in a very uneven way, and those who have accepted false rumours do not easily give up on their beliefs, especially when there are strong emotional commitments involved. It can be extremely hard to change what people think, even by presenting them with facts.

Okay, that's it for the passage. Obviously, free speech is essential in today's democratic society, but it certainly brings its own fair share of downfalls. What do you think? Should certain information be censored, or should we allow everyone to say anything they want? Think about it for a while. Bye!