

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 701

Hello! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Let's continue the story of *A New Instrument*. Let's start.

It had a guitar player, a harmonica player, and a drummer. Peter liked the drums. The next day, Peter asked his parents, "Can I learn to play drums?"

His father said, "The drums are a difficult instrument to play. Are you sure?"

"Yes," Peter answered.

Will his father let him play drums? Let's find out next time. Goodbye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 701

Hello! Welcome back to PR1!

Today you are going to listen to the story of *Rapunzel* Part Five. Let's begin!

On shore, Flynn left Rapunzel and did not return. Rapunzel was heartbroken. She did not know that Flynn had been tricked by evil Mother Cruella. He had been captured and put in Jail! Mother Cruella found Rapunzel and took her back to the tower.

Back in her room, Rapunzel realized that she had been painting the kingdom's emblem, the golden sun, on her wall her entire life!

Rapunzel remembered the picture of the lost princess and the Queen. Now Rapunzel knew why they all looked alike.

Mother Cruella was the only one who wanted to steal Rapunzel's magical hair. She had lied to Rapunzel about everything. "Mother, I am the lost princess," Rapunzel said.

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

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 701

Hello, everyone, and welcome back to PR2!

Today, we will learn about the origin of ugly Christmas sweaters. In case you don't know, ugly Christmas sweaters are purposely uglified pullovers often worn during the Christmas season. Take a listen:

Move over twinkling fir trees and wreaths, eggnog, stockings, and the office secret Santa – there's a new kid in town. Over the last decade the ugly Christmas sweater has firmly embedded itself in yuletide culture.

You know the one. It's a wooly pullover, usually in different shades of red, white and green, often of questionable fabric, and with at least one Christmas-inspired motif on it – a snowman, tinsel, a reindeer, or candy canes. Extra points if it features 3D pom-pom[s] or jingle bells.

The garment has quickly become an essential part of the holidays, ubiquitous as Christmas lights and wrapping paper. It's obnoxious and tacky, but also fuzzy and kind of wholesome. It took some time for the ugly Christmas sweater to find its place in the pantheon of Christmas fundamentals, however.

Christmas-themed pullovers started making an appearance in the 1950s, a nod perhaps to the holiday's growing commercialization. Initially referred to as "Jingle Bell Sweaters," they weren't as garish as today's iterations, and found little popularity in the market, although some TV personalities – notably crooners Val Doonican and Andy Williams – really embraced the ugly side of the festive topper.

That's it for today. Stay warm, and Merry Christmas!