

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 778

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

This is the fifth part of a story called *The Magic Key*. Let's begin.

Suddenly, the key began to glow. It looked very bright. The magic took the children into a new adventure. The children were in a forest. Charlie didn't like it. The forest was dark and gloomy. "Come on," he said.

That was all for today. I hope you liked it and I'll see you next time. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 778

Hello, everyone! Today we will talk about the color purple. Let's begin.

The color purple has often been regarded as a symbol of wealth and power, but the dye used to produce it did not have an elegant beginning. A group of ancient people living along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea first discovered how to make the dye from a snail. This snail gives off a strong-smelling liquid that changes color when it comes into contact with air and light. The people produced the purple dye from this liquid. If we visit the places where the dye was produced, we might still be able to see the shells of this snail. Let us hope we cannot smell them.

That's all for today. See you in class! Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2, 上級) No. 778

Hello, everyone. Welcome back to PR2.

Today we'll be talking about music and its characteristics.

Music is a universal language. Or so musicians like to claim. "With music," they'll say, "you can communicate across cultural and linguistic boundaries in ways that you can't with ordinary languages like English or French." On one level, this statement is obviously true. You don't have to speak French to enjoy a piece of music written by the French composer Claude Debussy. But is music really a universal language? That depends on what you mean by "universal" and what you mean by "language". Every human culture has music, just as each has language. So it's true that music is a universal feature of the human experience. At the same time, both music and language systems vary widely from culture to culture. Nevertheless, no matter how strange a foreign musical system may seem, studies show that people are pretty good at detecting the emotions conveyed in unfamiliar forms of music – that is, at least the two basic emotions of happiness and sadness. Specific features of music contribute to the expressions of these emotions. For example, higher pitch, more variations in pitch and rhythm, and faster tempo convey happiness, while the opposite conveys sadness. Perhaps, then, we are born with a musical sense. But language also has melody, which linguists call prosody. Exactly these same features – pitch, rhythm, and tempo – are used to convey emotion in speech in a way that appears to be universal across languages.

Okay, that's it for now. See you again next time!