

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 872

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Have you seen a spider before? Do you guys know how many legs they have? Spiders have 8 legs. They also make silk webs to catch other insects. [This] silk web is the spider web. Many spiders also make poison to hunt for food.

Spiders live everywhere in the world. We often find them climbing up [the wall or across] the ceiling.

That's all for today see you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 872

Hi again! This is PR1, and today we'll be talking about audition shows. Let's begin.

TV shows that search for talented amateur singers are becoming increasingly popular. Famous people judge the ability of these singers and then in some cases the TV audience votes online to decide on the best performer. Some people, however, have called for these shows to be stopped because they say that some judges can be unkind or rude and try to embarrass or upset the participants. Others say that these shows are just to entertain and should be seen as harmless entertainment. Nevertheless, many people are eager for a chance to take part in such shows.

Wow, sounds fun, doesn't it? Would you want to be a part of these shows? Think about it for a while. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 872

Hi guys! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I'd like to tell you guys about the history of photography.

We know that the Chinese had been aware of basic photographic principles as early as the fifth century B.C., and Leonardo da Vinci had experimented with a dark room in the 1500s, but it was a number of discoveries in chemistry during the eighteenth century that accelerated the development of modern photography. The discovery that silver salts were light sensitive led to experimentation with images of light on a surface that had been coated with silver. Often glass was used in the early images. But the problem was that these images were ephemeral – fading after only a short time. Some of the chemists who worked with them called them fairy pictures, and considered that they were only momentary creations.

How to fix the image permanently was one of the most important challenges of the early photographer chemists. In France, in about 1820, Nicephore Niepce discovered a method for fixing the image after a long exposure time of about eight hours. So, although his work was considered interesting, it was largely dismissed for being impractical. Nevertheless, one of his associates, Louis Daguerre, managed to find a way to reduce the exposure time to less than twenty minutes. So the story goes, in 1835, Daguerre was experimenting with some exposed plates, and he put a couple of them into his chemical cupboard opening it a few days later and to his surprise, the latent* images on the plates had developed.

Alright, that's it for now. See you!

* Pronounced "lay-t'nt"