

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 878

Hi, everyone! Welcome to PR Junior.

This is Part One of Wilf and Biff's adventure on a cliff. Let's begin.

Wilf had a bubble kit. He and Biff were blowing bubbles.

"Wow! These bubbles are huge!" said Biff.

Suddenly the magic key began to glow.

"The key is glowing," said Wilf. "Where will the magic take us this time?"

I wonder what happens next! Tune in next time to find out! Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 878

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR1.

Today I will tell you the story that is about measuring time. Let's take a listen.

We talk about time every day. We measure it by [the] second, minute, hour, day, week, month, and year. But what is time? No one can say exactly what it is. It is one of the greatest mysteries of our lives. We don't know exactly what time is, but our ability to measure it is very important. It makes our way of life possible. All the members of a group have to measure time in the same way. Time lets us put things in a definite order. We know that breakfast comes before lunch. Children can't play until school is over. Time enables us to organize our lives.

Let's continue next time. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 878

Hi, guys! Welcome back to PR2.

Let's continue talking about how Daguerre contributed to photography.

At first, he couldn't figure out why but eventually, he concluded that this must have occurred as a result of mercury vapor from a broken thermometer that was also in the enclosed cupboard. Supposedly, from this fortunate accident, he was able to invent a process of developing latent images on exposed plates.

But the process had its limitations. First, the images couldn't be reproduced, so each one was a unique piece and that greatly increased the cost of photography. Second, the image was reversed, so the subjects would actually see themselves as though they were looking in a mirror, although in the case of portraits, the fact that people were accustomed to seeing themselves in a mirror made this problem less urgent than some of the others. Third, the chemicals and the fumes that they released were highly toxic, so photography was a dangerous occupation. Fourth, the surface of the image was extremely fragile and had to be protected, often under glass, so they didn't disintegrate from handling. And finally, although the exposure time had been radically reduced, it was still inconveniently long at twenty minutes.

But by the mid-1800s, improvements in chemistry and optics had resolved most of these issues. Exposure time was reduced and negative film – which allowed producing multiple copies of an image – was introduced. So, photography was on its way to becoming a popular profession and pastime.

Alright, that's all. See you!