

### Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 981

Hi, guys! Welcome to PR Junior.

Today we are going to talk about a temple in Greece.

The Parthenon is a temple that was built more than 2,500 years ago. The ancient Greeks built the temple in honor of the goddess Athena. It can be seen from most parts of the city. The Parthenon is one of the oldest and finest examples of the ancient Greeks' great building skills.

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

### Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 981

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR1.

I will tell you the story about Thomas Edison, the "great" inventor. Let's start!

Thomas Edison was born in 1847, in the town of Milan, Ohio. Ever since he was very small, he wanted to know the reason for everything he saw. When he was in elementary school, he only studied what he liked, and asked the teachers many strange questions. Teachers didn't like him very much. Finally, he left school, and his mother taught him at home. He liked science very much, and did a lot of experiments in the basement of his house. When he was twelve years old, he sold newspapers in trains in order to get money for his experiments.

That was the first half of the story. Let's continue next time. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 974

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I will talk about one interesting study led by Judit Gervain, professor of developmental psychology at the University of Padova. According to it, before birth, the melody and rhythm of language heard in the womb\* prepares the baby's brain to quickly acquire the same language. Let's begin.

Scientists have debated for a long time whether the human brain is equipped with an innate learning mechanism specific for language, or whether infants learn so quickly solely through exposure to speech. Our brain certainly evolved the innate ability to recognize regular patterns in information received through the senses. In addition, researchers recently showed that fetuses already have a functional auditory system between the 24th and 28th week of pregnancy. Since the mother's body filters out high frequencies of the speech signal perceived in the womb, fetuses can only hear melody and rhythm of the speech.

The researchers measured neural activity in newborns using electroencephalography to investigate how their remarkable ability to quickly acquire language emerges. They selected a group of newborns between 1 and 5 days old with French native speaking mothers, and recorded their neural activity while they were listening to three different languages: French, Spanish, and English. The study measured not only their responses to the three languages, but also whether brain activity continued after language stimulation. The results showed that French, unlike the two unfamiliar languages Spanish and English, evoked a longer and more complex reaction even after stimulation stopped, showing an ongoing learning process.

That's it! See you!

\*Pronounced "woom" (like *room*)