

YUJA WANG

<https://famouspeoplelessons.com/y/yuja-wang.html>

CONTENTS:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| The Reading / Tapescript | 2 |
| Synonym Match and Phrase Match | 3 |
| Listening Gap Fill | 4 |
| Choose the Correct Word | 5 |
| Spelling | 6 |
| Put the Text Back Together | 7 |
| Scrambled Sentences | 8 |
| Discussion | 9 |
| Student Survey | 10 |
| Writing | 11 |
| Homework | 12 |
| Answers | 13 |

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Yuja Wang is a genius pianist and a superstar of the classical music world. She is widely regarded as one of the world's greatest and most dynamic pianists. She developed from being a child prodigy to becoming an internationally accomplished musician before she was 20. She has won many top prizes in music and has played with the world's greatest symphony orchestras and conductors.

Yuja was born in Beijing, China on February 10, 1987. Her mother was a dancer and her father was a percussionist. They encouraged the young Yuja to start playing the piano when she was six years old. Her piano teachers quickly recognized her amazing technical and creative abilities and she went on to study at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.

In 1999, aged 12, Yuja moved to Canada to become the youngest ever student at the Mount Royal Conservatory. In 2001, she was appointed as a Steinway Artist. A year later, she was offered a place at Philadelphia's prestigious Curtis Institute of Music. Her big break came in 2007 when she performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Yuja has won many top awards, including the Musical America Artist of the Year. She tours the world giving electrifying performances. Tickets for her shows are always quickly sold out. The San Francisco Chronicle wrote that Yuja is, "quite simply, the most dazzlingly, uncannily gifted pianist in the concert world today, and there's nothing left to do but sit back, listen and marvel at her artistry".

Sources:

<http://yujawang.com/about/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yuja_Wang

SYNONYM MATCH Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right. Are your answers the same as other students'?

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. genius | a. wonder child |
| 2. prodigy | b. inspired |
| 3. accomplished | c. became aware of |
| 4. encouraged | d. gifted person |
| 5. recognized | e. talents |
| 6. abilities | f. expert |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 7. moved | g. played |
| 8. prestigious | h. talented |
| 9. performed | i. relocated |
| 10. electrifying | j. be amazed |
| 11. gifted | k. leading |
| 12. marvel | l. exciting |

PHRASE MATCH Match the following phrases from the article.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Yuja Wang is a genius | a. accomplished musician |
| 2. She is widely regarded as one of | b. gifted pianist |
| 3. becoming an internationally | c. the world's greatest |
| 4. They encouraged the young Yuja | d. Curtis Institute |
| 5. her amazing technical | e. pianist and a superstar |
| 6. at Philadelphia's prestigious | f. came in 2007 |
| 7. Her big break | g. marvel at her artistry |
| 8. Tickets for her shows are always | h. to start playing the piano |
| 9. the most dazzlingly, uncannily | i. quickly sold out |
| 10. sit back, listen and | j. and creative abilities |

LISTENING GAP FILL

Yuja Wang is (1) _____ and a superstar of the classical music world. She is (2) _____ one of the world's greatest and most dynamic pianists. She developed from being (3) _____ to becoming an internationally accomplished musician before she was 20. She has won many top prizes in music and has played with the world's greatest symphony (4) _____.

Yuja was born in Beijing, China on February 10, 1987. Her mother was a dancer and her father (5) _____. They encouraged the young Yuja to start (6) _____ when she was six years old. Her piano teachers quickly recognized her (7) _____ creative abilities and she went (8) _____ at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.

In 1999, aged 12, Yuja moved to Canada to become (9) _____ student at the Mount Royal Conservatory. In 2001, she (10) _____ a Steinway Artist. A year later, she was (11) _____ at Philadelphia's prestigious Curtis Institute of Music. Her (12) _____ in 2007 when she performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Yuja has won (13) _____, including the Musical America Artist of the Year. She tours the (14) _____ performances. Tickets for her shows are always (15) _____. The San Francisco Chronicle wrote that Yuja is, "quite simply, the most dazzlingly, uncannily gifted pianist in the concert world today, and there's nothing left to do but sit back, listen and (16) _____ artistry".

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of italics.

Yuja Wang is a ⁽¹⁾ *genius / genie* pianist and a superstar of the classical music world. She is ⁽²⁾ *wide / widely* regarded as one of the world's greatest and most ⁽³⁾ *dynamic / dynamism* pianists. She developed from being a child ⁽⁴⁾ *prodigy / prodigious* to becoming an internationally accomplished musician before she was 20. She has won many top prizes in music and has played with the world's greatest symphony ⁽⁵⁾ *orchestras / orchestral* and conductors.

Yuja was ⁽⁶⁾ *born / birth* in Beijing, China on February 10, 1987. Her mother was a dancer and her father was a ⁽⁷⁾ *percussion / percussionist*. They ⁽⁸⁾ *encouraged / encouragement* the young Yuja to start playing the piano when she was six years old. Her piano teachers ⁽⁹⁾ *quickly recovered / recognized* her amazing technical and creative abilities and she went ⁽¹⁰⁾ *on / in* to study at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.

In 1999, aged 12, Yuja moved to Canada to become the youngest ⁽¹¹⁾ *even / ever* student at the Mount Royal Conservatory. In 2001, she was ⁽¹²⁾ *appointed / pointed* as a Steinway Artist. A year later, she was offered a ⁽¹³⁾ *plaice / place* at Philadelphia's prestigious Curtis Institute of Music. Her big ⁽¹⁴⁾ *broken / break* came in 2007 when she ⁽¹⁵⁾ *performance / performed* Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Yuja has won many top ⁽¹⁶⁾ *rewards / awards*, including the Musical America Artist of the Year. She tours the world giving ⁽¹⁷⁾ *electrifying / electrician* performances. Tickets for her shows are always quickly sold ⁽¹⁸⁾ *out / in*. The San Francisco Chronicle wrote that Yuja is, "quite simply, the most dazzlingly, uncannily gifted pianist in the concert world today, and there's ⁽¹⁹⁾ *nothing / something* left to do but sit back, listen and ⁽²⁰⁾ *marvel / marvelous* at her artistry".

SPELLING

These jumbled words are from the text. Spell them correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. Yuja Wang is a **eugnsi** pianist
2. the world's greatest and most **miydanc** pianists
3. an internationally **amdleicocsp** musician
4. the world's greatest **yonypmsh** orchestras

Paragraph 2

5. her father was a **crisutnsopesi**
6. They **cogeuradne** the young Yuja
7. Her piano teachers quickly **roeezcgdni** her
8. her amazing **nelcthai** and creative abilities

Paragraph 3

9. **pdeoaptni** as a Steinway Artist
10. she was **feeofrd** a place
11. Philadelphia's **psteiourgis** Curtis Institute
12. she **empfrdeor** Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1

Paragraph 4

13. Yuja has won many top **dasawr**
14. She tours the world giving **efngelytiicr** performances
15. the most **dyialzngzl**, uncannily gifted pianist
16. sit back, listen and **aelvmr** at her artistry

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (**13**) Yuja has won many top awards, including the Musical America Artist of the Year. She tours
- () music and has played with the world's greatest symphony orchestras and conductors.
- () break came in 2007 when she performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.
- () regarded as one of the world's greatest and most dynamic pianists. She developed from being a child
- () on to study at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.
- (**5**) Yuja was born in Beijing, China on February 10, 1987. Her mother was a dancer and her father was a
- () the world giving electrifying performances. Tickets for her shows are always quickly sold out. The San Francisco Chronicle wrote
- (**1**) Yuja Wang is a genius pianist and a superstar of the classical music world. She is widely
- () six years old. Her piano teachers quickly recognized her amazing technical and creative abilities and she went
- () place at Philadelphia's prestigious Curtis Institute of Music. Her big
- () today, and there's nothing left to do but sit back, listen and marvel at her artistry".
- () prodigy to becoming an internationally accomplished musician before she was 20. She has won many top prizes in
- () the Mount Royal Conservatory. In 2001, she was appointed as a Steinway Artist. A year later, she was offered a
- () that Yuja is, "quite simply, the most dazzlingly, uncannily gifted pianist in the concert world
- (**9**) In 1999, aged 12, Yuja moved to Canada to become the youngest ever student at
- () percussionist. They encouraged the young Yuja to start playing the piano when she was

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With your partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. greatest . as Widely of the one world's regarded
2. won prizes many top has She music . in
3. symphony with Played orchestras . greatest world's the
4. encouraged the young to start playing . Yuja They
5. recognized Teachers her creative amazing and technical abilities .
6. to Central study went She Conservatory . at on the
7. 1999, moved to Canada . 12, aged In Yuja
8. later, year a was she place . A offered
9. Her when big performed break came Tchaikovsky . she
10. electrifying tours the world performances . She giving
11. Tickets sold are shows out . her for always
12. back, marvel and Sit artistry . listen her at

YUJA WANG DISCUSSION (Write your questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What do you know about Yuja Wang?
2. Would you like to meet Yuja Wang?
3. What would you like to know about Yuja Wang and why?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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YUJA WANG DISCUSSION (Write your questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. What did you learn from this text about Yuja Wang?
2. What questions would you like to ask Yuja Wang?
3. What would her answers be to those questions?
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

THE YUJA WANG SURVEY

Write five questions about Yuja Wang in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

| | STUDENT 1 _____ | STUDENT 2 _____ | STUDENT 3 _____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. | | | |
| Q.2. | | | |
| Q.3. | | | |
| Q.4. | | | |
| Q.5. | | | |

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or other search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Yuja Wang. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. YUJA WANG POSTER: Make a poster showing the different stages of the life of Yuja Wang. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article Yuja Wang. Include an imaginary interview with her. Write about what she does every day and what she thinks about.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Yuja Wang. Ask her three questions about her life. Give her three suggestions on what she should do in her future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your "Yuja Wang expert" partner(s) will try and answer your questions.

ANSWERS

SYNONYM MATCH (Page 3)

Paragraphs 1 and 2

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. genius | a. gifted person |
| 2. prodigy | b. wonder child |
| 3. accomplished | c. expert |
| 4. encouraged | d. inspired |
| 5. recognized | e. became aware of |
| 6. abilities | f. talents |

Paragraphs 3 and 4

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 7. moved | g. relocated |
| 8. prestigious | h. leading |
| 9. performed | i. played |
| 10. electrifying | j. exciting |
| 11. gifted | k. talented |
| 12. marvel | l. be amazed |

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES (Page 8)

1. Widely regarded as one of the world's greatest.
2. She has won many top prizes in music.
3. Played with the world's greatest symphony orchestras.
4. They encouraged the young Yuja to start playing.
5. Teachers recognized her amazing technical and creative abilities.
6. She went on to study at the Central Conservatory.
7. In 1999, aged 12, Yuja moved to Canada.
8. A year later, she was offered a place.
9. Her big break came when she performed Tchaikovsky.
10. She tours the world giving electrifying performances.
11. Tickets for her shows are always sold out.
12. Sit back, listen and marvel at her artistry.

ALL OTHER EXERCISES:

Look at the text on page 2.