

Speed Reading Practice for Eiken Pre-1: No. 5

以下の英文を読んで、本文の内容と一致するものを①～⑧の中から3つ選びなさい。

Why Does Music Move Us?

Music is found in every known human society. People sing at religious ceremonies, listen to songs while working, dance at celebrations, and use music to express grief. Yet music presents an intellectual puzzle. Unlike language, it does not usually communicate precise information about objects or events. A melody cannot clearly tell us that a train will arrive at six or that food is stored in a particular room. Nevertheless, a brief sequence of sounds can produce joy, tension, sadness, or hope with remarkable force.

One explanation focuses on expectation. As listeners become familiar with a musical tradition, they gradually learn its patterns, often without conscious instruction. They develop expectations about which note, rhythm, or harmony is likely to come next. Composers can satisfy these expectations, delay them, or violate them. A familiar resolution may create relief, while an unexpected pause or dissonant chord may produce tension. Music therefore engages the listener partly by creating predictions and then controlling how and when they are fulfilled.

However, musical expectations are not universal in every detail. A listener raised with European classical music may anticipate harmonic changes that sound unfamiliar to someone trained in another musical system. Rhythms that seem natural in one culture may initially appear irregular in another. This does not mean that people are incapable of appreciating unfamiliar music. Rather, repeated exposure allows listeners to recognize new patterns and develop new expectations. Musical understanding is therefore partly learned through participation in a culture.

The body also plays an important role. Rhythm can influence breathing, movement, and even the speed at which people walk. Listeners may tap their feet or move their heads without deliberately deciding to do so. This response helps explain why music is so closely connected with dance, military marching, and group ceremonies. When many people move or sing in time with one another, they may experience a temporary sense of unity. Shared rhythm can reduce the psychological distance between individuals and make them feel part of a larger group.

Music is also strongly connected with memory. A song heard repeatedly during childhood may later bring back images, places, and emotions that have

35 not been consciously recalled for years. The music does not contain a complete record of the past. Instead, it acts as a signal that activates networks of personal memories. For this reason, the same song can produce very different reactions in different listeners. One person may associate it with friendship and safety, while another connects it with loss.

40 Researchers have also examined the use of music in medical and therapeutic settings. Familiar songs may help some patients with memory disorders communicate or recall personal experiences. Music can also reduce anxiety before medical treatment or provide structure during physical rehabilitation. However, such effects should not be exaggerated. Music is not
45 a universal cure, and a piece that calms one patient may irritate another. Its influence depends on personal history, cultural background, and the particular situation.

The commercial use of music demonstrates how powerfully it can shape perception. Film directors use soundtracks to guide audiences toward fear,
50 sympathy, or excitement. Shops select background music that may influence how long customers remain or how they perceive the atmosphere. Political campaigns and advertisements also use familiar songs to transfer existing emotions to a candidate or product. In these situations, listeners may not consciously notice how music is affecting their judgment.

55 This raises an important ethical question. Music can strengthen communities, preserve memories, and support healing, but it can also be used to manipulate emotion. The problem is not that emotional influence is necessarily harmful. All art affects its audience in some way. The more important issue is whether listeners understand the context in which music
60 is being used and retain the freedom to interpret it for themselves.

Music moves us because it operates at several levels at once. It creates expectations in the mind, produces responses in the body, activates personal memories, and connects individuals with social groups. Its emotional power does not come from a single universal formula. It emerges from the
65 interaction between sound, culture, experience, and situation. To understand music, therefore, we must study not only the notes themselves but also the listeners who give those notes meaning.

語数:約 530 語

内容一致問題

次の①～⑧のうち、本文の内容と一致するものを 3 つ選びなさい。

- ① Music differs from ordinary language because it rarely conveys exact factual information, even though it can still produce powerful emotional responses.
- ② Listeners acquire musical expectations partly by becoming familiar with the patterns of a musical tradition, and composers can create effects by satisfying or delaying those expectations.
- ③ The passage argues that musical expectations are identical across cultures because all human beings naturally respond to harmony and rhythm in exactly the same way.
- ④ Repeated exposure to unfamiliar music usually prevents listeners from appreciating it because new musical patterns conflict permanently with expectations formed during childhood.
- ⑤ Moving or singing in rhythm with other people may create a temporary sense of unity and reduce the psychological distance among members of a group.
- ⑥ According to the passage, music contains complete and accurate records of past events, which explains why old songs restore identical memories in every listener.
- ⑦ Music is presented as a reliable medical cure whose effects remain consistent regardless of a patient's background, previous experience, or emotional condition.
- ⑧ The author concludes that music's emotional power can be explained entirely by universal properties of sound, regardless of listeners' culture, experience, or social context.

1. grief[grí:f]	悲しみ、深い悲嘆
2. intellectual[ɪntələktʃuəl]	知的な、知性に関する
3. precise[prɪsaɪs]	正確な、明確な
4. sequence[sí:kwəns]	連続、ひと続き
5. remarkable[rɪmá:rkəbl]	注目すべき、驚くほどの
6. expectation[èkspektéɪʃən]	予想、期待
7. conscious[kánʃəs]	意識している、意識的な
8. harmony[há:rməni]	和音、調和
9. violate[váɪələɪt]	～に反する、～を破る
10. resolution[rèzəlu:ʃən]	解決、音楽的な解決
11. dissonant[dísənənt]	不協和音の、調和しない
12. anticipate[æntɪsəpèɪt]	～を予想する
13. irregular[irégjələr]	不規則な
14. exposure[ɪkspóuzər]	接触、さらされること
15. participation[pɑ:rtɪsəpéɪʃən]	参加
16. rhythm[ríðəm]	リズム、律動
17. deliberately[dɪlɪbəɾətli]	意図的に、故意に
18. psychological[sàɪkələdʒɪkəl]	心理的な
19. activate[æktəvèɪt]	～を活性化する、作動させる
20. association[əsəusiéɪʃən]	連想、関連
21. therapeutic[θ èrəpjú:tɪk]	治療上の、治療に役立つ
22. rehabilitation[rɪ:həbɪlətèɪʃən]	リハビリテーション、機能回復
23. perception[pərsépʃən]	認識、知覚
24. manipulate[mənɪpjələɪt]	～を巧みに操る
25. interaction[ɪntərəékʃən]	相互作用