

**Intermediate 2**  
**Unit 7: Reading**  
**Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur**

## Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

As he hurried along, young Ludwig cast a curious glance at everything he saw on his way. "What a beautiful city!" he said to himself as he walked past the tall buildings. "I wish I could stay long enough to visit all of Vienna."

**as** = when, while

**hurry along** = walk very quickly

**cast** ⇒ cast, cast

**cast a curious glance at something** = look at something curiously



**Vienna = the capital city of Austria**



**Austria = a country in Europe**

He was on his way to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's house. When he came to the door, he stopped for a moment to brush the dust off his jacket. Then very eagerly, but at the same time hesitantly, he lifted the polished knocker high and let go of it instantly.

**eager** (adjective) = willing, keen

**eagerly** (adverb) = willingly, keenly

**hesitant** (adjective) = uncertain, not sure

**hesitantly** (adverb) = doubtfully, with doubt

**polished** = very bright

**let go of something** = release something, stop holding something

**instantly** = quickly, fast



**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**



**knocker**

A lady who had heard the "bang" opened the door and looked at him inquiringly.  
"What can I do for you, young man?" she asked.

The startled Ludwig said, "I have a letter for Mr. Mozart, and I wish he would read it." And he handed the letter to her.

**bang** = loud noise

**inquiringly** = curiously

**startled** = shocked

**hand** = give

She led the shy Ludwig in and showed him into a large room where he sat down on the edge of a chair. While he was sitting there, he heard some exquisite playing. He had no doubt it was Mozart himself.

**lead** ⇔ led, led

**lead** = to show the way to somebody

**exquisite** = very beautiful and delicate

**playing** = playing of the music

**have no doubt** = be sure

He seemed to have caught the happy movement, the joyfully outpoured songs of the birds in the trees outside the window, and put them into his music. As the player's fingers moved with complete mastery over the notes, Ludwig wondered if he could play so beautifully one day.

*Mozart's music is a reflection of nature.*

**wonder** (verb) = ask oneself, want to know

**if** = whether

**master** (noun) = a skillful and experienced person

**mastery** (noun) = being a master

After a while the music stopped, and the astonished boy saw Mozart in front of him, his hand held out in greeting. After shaking hands, Mozart asked him cordially to go upstairs with him. There he looked at the sixteen-year-old Ludwig, and said, "I hope you can play as well as your letter of recommendation says you can. If you are not too tired, I'd be happy to have you play now."

**astonished** = very surprised, shocked, startled

**cordially** = kindly, in a friendly way

**letter of recommendation** = a letter describing someone's qualities and abilities, written by someone who worked with him or her previously, and sent to a possible new employer

Ludwig knew that the thirty-year-old Mozart had already composed more than forty symphonies. "Well, to show myself worthy of attention, I have to try my best to prove my talent," Ludwig thought.

**compose** = to produce a piece of music

- composer = a person who composes pieces of music
- instrumentalist = a person who plays pieces of music

**worthy** = deserving

**talent** = aptitude = a natural skill or ability to be good at something, especially without being taught

He sat down to play the piece he had prepared. When he had finished, he turned toward Mozart. To his disappointment, he knew that Mozart was not impressed.

"This was especially prepared for me, wasn't it?"

"Yes, sir, and I could see that it didn't please you. But don't judge me yet, please. I beg you to give me another chance. If you give me a few notes, I'll improvise for you."

Mozart, not willing to discourage the boy, walked over to the piano and played a few notes halfheartedly to test him further.

**piece** = piece of music

**impress** (verb) = to cause someone to admire or respect you

**impressive** (adjective) = admirable, worthy of attention

**impression** (noun) = an idea or opinion of what something or someone is like

**please** (verb) = satisfy = to make someone feel happy or satisfied, or to give someone pleasure

**judge** (verb) = to form, give, or have as an opinion, or to decide about something or someone, especially after thinking carefully

**beg** = implore, ask = to make a very strong and urgent request

**improvise** = when actors or musicians improvise, they perform without prepared speech or music, making up the play, music, etc. as they perform it

**halfheartedly** = unwillingly, reluctantly

**further** = more

Ludwig began to play again. The improvised piece represented a touch of his intense character. He played with great skill.

Mozart was overwhelmed. He came closer to the piano to study Ludwig's face.

**represent** = show, stand for  
**touch** = a small amount of  
**intense character** = complicated personality  
**with great skill** = skillfully  
**overwhelmed** = really impressed

Young Beethoven continued to bring his own performance to an end with a burst of passion. Before he had time to wonder what the master would say, Mozart shouted, "Bravo! Splendid! Well, Beethoven, if you wish to study with me, it'll be an honor for me to teach you." Ludwig bowed respectfully and said, "Thank you, sir. I would appreciate being your student."

**burst** = explosion  
**passion** = strong feelings/emotions  
**bravo** = well done  
**splendid** = excellent  
**honor** = glory  
**bow** = bend your body to show respect  
**respect** (noun) = admiration felt or shown for someone or something that you believe has good ideas or qualities  
**respectful** (adjective) = showing admiration for someone or something  
**respectfully** (adv.) = with respect

**Full Text:**

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### **Sample Summary:**

Young Ludwig van Beethoven visited Vienna and was excited by the city's beauty. He went to meet the famous composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, feeling both eager and nervous. After a brief introduction, Mozart asked Beethoven to play. Although Beethoven's prepared piece didn't impress Mozart, his improvised performance did. Mozart was so impressed that he offered to teach Beethoven, who gratefully accepted.

### **Source:**

[Intermediate 2 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://intermediate2(anglophone.ir))