

The cello is a stringed instrument which makes sounds by drawing the bow across the strings. It is a member of the violin family, which includes the violin, viola, and contrabass. ^{E1} The smaller the instrument is, the higher the pitch it produces. The cello is the second largest stringed instrument in the family, so it makes a relatively deep sound.

You play the violin and the viola with the instrument under the chin ^{E2} on the left side. However, when playing the cello, you sit down and hold the instrument between the knees. Despite the fact that the cello is a low-pitched instrument, it can produce four octaves of sounds. All the stringed instruments sound nice, but the cello's sound is said to be the one ^{E3} closest to the human voice. So people can feel comfort and tenderness in the sound.

It is believed that the cello was invented in the sixteenth century. At first it was only an accompanying instrument, but later it was developed as a solo instrument as well. The *Unaccompanied Cello Suites*, composed by Bach, is recognized as a masterpiece for the solo cello. ^{E4} Today the cello plays an important role ^{E5} not only in the orchestra and as an accompanying instrument but also as a solo instrument.



violin



viola



cello



contrabass

Expressions

- the + 比較級, the + 比較級** 「～すればするほどますます…」
 - The more** you laugh, **the healthier** you will be.
 - The harder** you work, **the closer** you will get to your goal.
- on ~ side** 「～側に[の]」
 - You will find the post office **on** the right **side**.
 - There are trees **on** each **side** of the street.
- close to ~** 「～に近い」
 - San Diego is a city **close to** the Mexican border.
 - Some scientists say the bonobo is the animal **closest to** humans.
- recognize ~ as ...** 「～を…とみなす[評価する], ~を…と認識する」
 - He is **recognized as** one of the leaders of our generation.
 - At first, I couldn't **recognize** her **as** the same person I had known.
- play a role** 「役割を果たす」
 - Sakamoto Ryoma **played an** interesting **role** in the late Edo Period.
 - What kind of **role** should Japan **play** in the future?
 - Sometimes luck **plays a part** in winning games.

Notes

p.80 **string** [striŋ] 動 (楽器)に弦を張る 図 (楽器の)弦 **stringed instrument** 弦楽器 **bow** [bəʊ] 図 弓 **..., which includes ~** そしてそれには～が含まれる **viola** [viəʊlə] 図 ビオラ (バイオリンより少し大きいバイオリン属の弦楽器) **contrabass** [kəntrəbeɪs] 図 コントラバス (大型の低音弦楽器) **pitch** [pɪtʃ] 図 音の高低 **relatively** [rɛlətɪvli] 副 比較的, 割合(に) **when playing the cello** チェロを演奏するときには **knee** [ni:] 図 ひざ **despite** [dɪspáɪt] 副 ~にもかかわらず **low-pitched** [ləʊpɪtʃt] 形 (音・声)が低い **octave** [ɒktəv] 図 オクターブ, 8度音程 **comfort** [kʌmfərt] 図 やすらぎ, 心地よさ **tenderness** [tɛndərnɪs] 図 優しさ **accompany** [əkəmpani] 動 (歌手・主要楽器の)伴奏をする, ~といっしょに行く **solo** [səʊləʊ] 形 独奏[独唱]の, 単独の **unaccompanied** [ʌnəkəmpanɪd] 形 無伴奏の **suite** [swi:t] 図 組曲 **Unaccompanied Cello Suites** 「無伴奏チェロ組曲」 **Bach** [bá:k] 図 (ヨハン・セバスチャン・)バッハ (1685-1750. ドイツの作曲家) **recognize** [rɛkəɡnaɪz] 動 ~を認識する **masterpiece** [má:stəpɪ:s] 図 傑作

p.81 **get to ~** ~に着く **San Diego** [sæn diéigəʊ] 図 サンディエゴ (米国のカリフォルニア州の港湾都市) **Mexican** [mɛksɪkən] 形 メキシコの **bonobo** [bəʊnəʊ] 図 ボノボ (アフリカの熱帯雨林に生息する類人猿) **the late Edo Period** 幕末