

ENGLISH LEARNING FOR CURIOUS MINDS



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Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

14th Sep, 2021

[00:00:00] Hello, hello hello, and welcome to English Learning for Curious Minds, by

Leonardo English.

[00:00:11] The show where you can listen to fascinating stories, and learn weird and wonderful things about the world at the same time as improving your English.

[00:00:21] I'm Alastair Budge, and today we are going to be talking about Spartacus, the man who led a gladiator¹ uprising² in Ancient Rome.

[00:00:31] Now, you probably know something of the story of Spartacus.

¹ someone trained to fight against men or animals in an arena in ancient Rome

² an act of resistance against authority



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:00:36] Perhaps you learned about him at school, perhaps you've seen the [cult³](#) 1960 film with Kirk Douglas, or perhaps you have seen a more recent TV series [loosely⁴](#) based on his life.

[00:00:50] His story has inspired philosophers, politicians, athletes, and people just like me and you for thousands of years.

[00:00:59] So, in this episode we are going to tell the story of Spartacus.

[00:01:05] OK then, let's get started.

[00:01:08] Ancient Rome had many great qualities that much of the world still looks on with [admiration⁵](#).

[00:01:16] [Republicanism⁶](#), the idea that citizenship shouldn't be tied to [ethnicity⁷](#), great literature and philosophy, beautiful buildings, [aqueducts⁸](#), and roads that are still [partly⁹](#) standing today.

³ something that is popular among a particular group in society

⁴ in a way that is not exact

⁵ respect and approval

⁶ the ideas behind a type of government in which the power belongs to the people

⁷ the fact of belonging to a certain nation or race

⁸ structures for carrying water across land

⁹ not completely



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:01:30] But two things that are not universally admired¹⁰ from ancient Rome are slavery¹¹ and gladiators¹² - the idea that a human being can be the property of another human being, and the idea that it is not just acceptable, but enjoyable to watch two humans fight to the death.

[00:01:52] Now, of course ancient Rome wasn't the first, and wasn't the only society to keep slaves¹³ or force people to kill each other. But it is one of the most famous.

[00:02:04] I should clarify that to say that gladiators and slavery are two completely different concepts is not exactly true.

[00:02:13] Most gladiators were slaves, they were people who had been captured by the Romans, often from far off lands, and had been sold as slaves.

[00:02:24] These male slaves would often be sent to camps, where they would be trained as gladiators.

[00:02:32] The topic of gladiators deserves its own episode, but as a brief summary, promising slaves, men who were considered to be strong and able¹⁴ fighters, would be sent to these gladiator schools where they would be trained as a gladiator.

¹⁰ respected and approved

¹¹ the activity of using other people as property and forcing them to work for you

¹² people trained to fight against men or animals in an arena in ancient Rome

¹³ people who are used by other people as their property and are forced to work for them

¹⁴ having the power and skill to do something



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:02:49] When they were considered **sufficiently¹⁵** trained, they would be sent out to fight.

[00:02:54] If they won, and by won, we of course normally mean if they killed their opponents or were not killed themselves, they would live to fight another day.

[00:03:06] And if they lost, well this almost always meant death.

[00:03:12] So the status of a **gladiator** in ancient Rome was a strange one.

[00:03:17] On the one hand they were **slaves** or criminals, people who were right at the bottom of society and forced to fight to the death for the entertainment of others.

[00:03:29] They couldn't leave, they weren't free, they were still **owned¹⁶** by their master.

[00:03:34] But on the other hand they were often treated very well inside these schools.

[00:03:39] Their masters wanted them to win, **partly** because they would win **fame¹⁷** and **glory¹⁸** if their gladiator won, and **partly** because if their gladiator lost, well the

¹⁵ enough

¹⁶ belonging to

¹⁷ the state of being known and recognized because of your abilities

¹⁸ the fact of being known and honoured because of your actions



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

slave¹⁹ owner would lose valuable property, the gladiator would be worthless²⁰ because he would be dead.

[00:03:59] Despite the gladiator's²¹ status as a man in captivity²², the most successful gladiators had a fame that one could compare to a modern sports star.

[00:04:10] They were cheered on²³, they had fans, and lived a pretty good life inside these schools.

[00:04:17] One of the most famous of these schools was located in a place called Capua, about 25km to the north of Naples, in southern Italy.

[00:04:28] In 73 BC, in the glatorial²⁴ school in Capua, a gladiator named Spartacus had been planning his escape.

[00:04:39] Not much is known about Spartacus' early life, other than he probably came from Thrace, an area of Eastern Europe split between modern day Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey.

¹⁹ someone who is used by other people as their property and is forced to work for them

²⁰ having no value in money

²¹ of the person who is trained to fight against men or animals in an arena in ancient Rome

²² the condition in which someone is a prisoner or cannot move or act freely

²³ encouraged with shouts

²⁴ relating to people trained to fight against men or animals in an arena in ancient Rome



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:04:53] He had probably been captured²⁵ by the Romans, and sold into slavery.

[00:04:58] What we do know is that in 73 BC, when Spartacus was probably in his late 30s, he and a group of around 70 other gladiators managed to overpower²⁶ their captors²⁷ and break out²⁸ of the gladiator school in Capua.

[00:05:17] The story goes that they managed to overpower their guards using some knives that they found in the kitchen.

[00:05:25] As soon as they got out of the school they found a caravan²⁹ of trucks that was full of weapons for these trainee³⁰ gladiators.

[00:05:35] Weapons that were deadly, but of course only intended³¹ to be used within the school for training purposes.

[00:05:43] Spartacus and his group of 70 or so escapees³² were now armed and dangerous.

²⁵ taken as a prisoner

²⁶ defeat

²⁷ the people that had caught them

²⁸ escape

²⁹ a group of vehicles travelling together in line

³⁰ a person that is being trained for something

³¹ planned, meant

³² people who are escaping from somewhere



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:05:51] They were all professional **gladiators**, they were men whose job was literally to fight and kill other people, and they now knew that if they were captured, certain death **awaited³³** them.

[00:06:06] The group headed south towards Mount Vesuvius, the volcano that **overlooks³⁴** the bay of Naples.

[00:06:13] This was about 150 years before the famous **eruption³⁵** that destroyed Pompeii, and at the time Mount Vesuvius was a **lush³⁶** region full of olive trees.

[00:06:27] As the group moved south, they were joined by other **slaves** who had run away from their masters to join the group.

[00:06:35] There is this romantic idea that was popularised by the 1960 film that Spartacus had the **goal³⁷** of **abolishing³⁸ slavery** throughout the Roman empire, that he was filled with this dream to get rid of this horrible practice.

³³ waited for

³⁴ looks over

³⁵ the explosion of a volcano

³⁶ having lots of green plants and trees

³⁷ desired result

³⁸ ending officially



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:06:52] Although this might have been a **noble³⁹** **aim⁴⁰**, there is no evidence that it was true.

[00:06:58] The **slaves** who ran away to join the **gladiators**, in all probability, weren't doing it because of their anti-slavery views.

[00:07:07] More likely is that **slaves** saw that Spartacus's group was growing, that they were living a better life than the **slaves** were, so they **risked⁴¹** it all to join Spartacus.

[00:07:19] When news got back to Rome of this escape from the school, something had to be done.

[00:07:25] A **signal⁴²** needed to be sent to this **rebellious⁴³** group, and to **potential⁴⁴** future **rebels⁴⁵**, that one could not escape from **gladiator** school and get away with it.

[00:07:38] A man called Gaius Claudius Glaber was sent to deal with the escaped **gladiators**, but he wasn't even given an army - he had to find 3,000 men on his way south, he had to form his own army to fight the **gladiators**.

³⁹ brave and honourable

⁴⁰ desired result

⁴¹ put something in danger

⁴² an action that gives a message or warning

⁴³ relating to an act of resistance against authority

⁴⁴ possible

⁴⁵ people who take action and resist against authority



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:07:53] This gives you an idea of how little threat⁴⁶ Rome thought Spartacus posed⁴⁷.

[00:08:00] On the slopes⁴⁸ of Mount Vesuvius, Glaber and his men surrounded⁴⁹ Spartacus and blocked⁵⁰ his path.

[00:08:07] On one side Spartacus saw the Roman soldiers. On the other was a steep⁵¹ cliff⁵².

[00:08:14] In a display of the excellent military strategy that Spartacus would later prove to have, he ordered his men to make ropes⁵³ out of vines⁵⁴, so they could lower⁵⁵ themselves down the cliffs⁵⁶.

⁴⁶ danger

⁴⁷ caused

⁴⁸ sides of a mountain

⁴⁹ were all around

⁵⁰ stopped the movement through something

⁵¹ falling at a sharp angle

⁵² a mountain side with a sharp falling angle

⁵³ strong thick lines or cords

⁵⁴ a type of climbing plant

⁵⁵ move into a low position

⁵⁶ mountain sides with a sharp falling angles



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:08:29] They then went round the back of the Roman camp without Glaber [noticing](#)
[57](#), and were able to use the element of surprise to [massacre](#)⁵⁸ the Roman soldiers.

[00:08:40] This was the first of the real victories for Spartacus, and as word got out, more and more [slaves flocked](#)⁵⁹ to join the army.

[00:08:51] Spartacus was now the [de facto](#)⁶⁰ leader of the group, although power was shared with two other [gladiators](#), [gauls](#)⁶¹ from modern day France called Crixus and Oenomaus.

[00:09:03] You might be thinking, “why didn’t the Romans just send their real army to deal with the [gladiators](#)?”

[00:09:10] Well, at least when Spartacus escaped from Capua most of the Roman army was far away in the empire fighting, in Spain, [Gaul](#)⁶² and Germany.

[00:09:21] The most serious [threats](#)⁶³ were on the edges of the empire, so that was where the best trained, and majority of the soldiers were.

⁵⁷ seeing

⁵⁸ kill a lot of people

⁵⁹ came together

⁶⁰ in fact

⁶¹ people coming from ancient Gaul

⁶² a region of western Europe where modern France is located

⁶³ dangers



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:09:31] Spartacus's army, and by this time we can probably call it an army, marched
⁶⁴ north from Vesuvius, moving up Italy towards The Alps.

[00:09:41] As it went, it attracted⁶⁵ more and more men to it.

[00:09:45] It must have been an attractive⁶⁶ proposition⁶⁷ for a slave.

[00:09:49] The army was no longer a group of a couple of hundred escaped gladiators,
it had swelled⁶⁸ to around 40,000 men.

[00:09:58] It was, by all reports, a relatively⁶⁹ democratic army, and when treasures
were taken from Roman towns or villas, they were shared⁷⁰ between the soldiers.

[00:10:10] If you were someone living as a slave, in pretty terrible conditions, then it's
not hard to imagine the attraction⁷¹ of running away from your masters and joining the
rebels.

⁶⁴ walked quickly and in a military manner

⁶⁵ caused to participate in their army

⁶⁶ pleasing

⁶⁷ a suggested action

⁶⁸ grown in size

⁶⁹ when compared to other similar things

⁷⁰ divided, owned by all of them in fair parts

⁷¹ a quality that causes interest and desire



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:10:23] Indeed, there are historians who have suggested that it wasn't just slaves that joined Spartacus - there were many freed slaves and common people who decided that they too wanted to join.

[00:10:36] By the spring of 72 BC the army was around 70,000 men in total.

[00:10:43] But, factions⁷², different groups, were arising⁷³.

[00:10:48] Specifically, one group led by the gaul Crixus, a group of around 30,000 men, decided to stay behind in central Italy while Spartacus moved north.

[00:11:01] The Roman forces managed to catch up⁷⁴ with Crixus, and by this time they were better prepared.

[00:11:08] Crixus and his men were slaughtered⁷⁵. The rebels had lost nearly half of their men.

[00:11:14] But the group led by Spartacus continued to march⁷⁶ north.

⁷² groups with different characteristics

⁷³ appearing

⁷⁴ succeed in reaching someone

⁷⁵ killed in great numbers

⁷⁶ walk quickly and in a military manner



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:11:19] Historians suggest that Spartacus was trying to lead his men out of modern day Italy, back towards Thrace, where Spartacus came from, while the ones from [Gaul](#) would go there, in modern day France.

[00:11:34] Put simply, Spartacus was trying to go home.

[00:11:39] Strangely enough when Spartacus's army got to the Alps, they turned around and went south, back towards Rome.

[00:11:48] Why?

[00:11:50] Well, that is a great question, and nobody actually knows why.

[00:11:55] There are several theories that historians have [put forward⁷⁷](#).

[00:11:59] The Italian [peninsula⁷⁸](#) was the richest place in Europe at the time.

[00:12:04] The [gladiators](#) had enjoyed a lot of success by taking gold and other treasure from villages they had attacked.

[00:12:12] Why leave, when it seemed so easy to get rich?

[00:12:16] Perhaps they were so drunk on their own success that they really thought that they could [march](#) on Rome, [capture⁷⁹](#) the city, and [seize⁸⁰](#) power for themselves. It

⁷⁷ proposed or suggested

⁷⁸ a long piece of land sticking out of the mainland into the sea

⁷⁹ control by force

⁸⁰ take and hold something quickly



might seem crazy to us now, but they hadn't been defeated so far, why couldn't they keep on going and take the capital?

[00:12:36] And not all of the rebels came from Thrace or [Gaul](#). Spartacus might have been going "home", but not everyone was.

[00:12:45] By this point, for many, home would have been with the other [rebels](#), they were having a lot of fun, and they didn't want to go to a place that was completely [foreign](#)⁸¹ to them.

[00:12:57] And finally, perhaps they saw the Alps and thought, wow, that looks dangerous.

[00:13:03] If you haven't been to northern Italy before and seen the start of the Alps, they do almost come out of nowhere. To someone who had never seen mountains like that before, one couldn't [blame](#)⁸² them if they wanted to take their chance against the Roman army instead of trying to go across dangerous snowy mountains.

[00:13:26] So, they turned back, and [marched](#) south.

[00:13:29] Their target was Sicily, at the other end of the Italian [peninsula](#).

[00:13:35] Sicily had a history of [slave](#) rebellions, it was also an island, so [partly](#) separated from the rest of the Roman empire.

⁸¹ connected to a country that it wasn't their own

⁸² think that someone did something wrong



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:13:45] Spartacus's plan was to get to Sicily, where he hoped he would find sympathy⁸³ with his cause⁸⁴.

[00:13:52] But Rome was not going to allow this to happen.

[00:13:56] One of the richest people in Rome, a man named Marcus Crassus, was chosen to make sure Spartacus never got there. He raised an army, and set off⁸⁵ to defeat the rebels, once and for all⁸⁶.

[00:14:12] Crassus knew that Spartacus's forces were in a place called Picenum, or Picenum, as I am told it should be pronounced in the authentic⁸⁷ Roman way, on the Adriatic coast.

[00:14:24] He sent one of his lieutenants⁸⁸, complete with two legions⁸⁹, so around 10,000 men, to push Spartacus north.

⁸³ understanding and care

⁸⁴ an objective or purpose he was prepared to fight for

⁸⁵ started on a trip

⁸⁶ completely

⁸⁷ original, real

⁸⁸ people with an officer rank in the army

⁸⁹ large groups of soldiers, especially of an ancient Roman army



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:14:33] They were given **specific⁹⁰** instructions not to attack Spartacus's army, just to push him north, where they would face another, larger, army.

[00:14:44] This **lieutenant⁹¹**, a man named Mummius, **got ahead of himself⁹²**, he was too **confident⁹³**.

[00:14:52] Instead of pushing Spartacus's forces north, he attacked.

[00:14:57] **Miscalculating⁹⁴** the strength of Spartacus's army, Mummius's two **legions** were badly defeated.

[00:15:05] The survivors returned to the main army, to tell their **commander⁹⁵** what had happened.

[00:15:12] Crassus was furious.

[00:15:14] His direct orders had been **disobeyed⁹⁶**, and he wanted to make sure that this would never happen again.

⁹⁰ clear and certain

⁹¹ a person with an officer rank in the army

⁹² did something sooner than it was supposed to happen without having made the necessary preparations

⁹³ sure about his abilities

⁹⁴ thinking that it was less than it really was

⁹⁵ an officer who is leading a military operation

⁹⁶ not followed



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:15:23] Of the 500 soldiers who returned alive, they were divided into groups of 10, and one person in each group was chosen to be publicly executed⁹⁷.

[00:15:36] The idea was that the soldiers would fear⁹⁸ their own commander more than they would fear Spartacus, and they would never disobey⁹⁹ orders again.

[00:15:47] The word for this punishment is, you might know, decimate, meaning to take one out of every ten.

[00:15:56] The word in English today has gone on to mean “completely destroy”, but this type of punishment is where it comes from.

[00:16:05] While Crassus was busy disciplining¹⁰⁰ his army, Spartacus’s army had managed to progress further south.

[00:16:13] They had almost reached Sicily, but needed to find a way across the straits of Messina, the 3km body of water between Sicily and the Italian peninsula.

[00:16:25] The only option available to Spartacus was to get Sicilian pirates to help them cross¹⁰¹.

⁹⁷ killed as a legal punishment

⁹⁸ be afraid of someone

⁹⁹ refuse to follow

¹⁰⁰ making them more willing to follow orders

¹⁰¹ go from one side of something to the other



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:16:32] The pirates had fast boats and knowledge of good places to land. Spartacus's army had plenty of money, taken during their attacks on Roman towns and villages.

[00:16:44] Spartacus paid the pirates to help him cross, but he was betrayed¹⁰² at the last minute, the pirates sailed off with the money, leaving Spartacus and his army stuck¹⁰³ on the mainland.

[00:16:59] This part of the Italian peninsula, the foot, is long and thin. Spartacus's forces were trapped¹⁰⁴, and Crassus's army was fast approaching.

[00:17:10] What's more, a legendary Roman general called Pompey The Great was on his way to support.

[00:17:17] While Spartacus and his group of gladiators had had success against smaller Roman forces, and against people who were essentially civilians¹⁰⁵, coming up against the full force of the Roman army would be a different thing altogether.

[00:17:35] Spartacus tried to make a deal, he tried to make peace with Crassus, but was rejected¹⁰⁶.

¹⁰² tricked or deceived

¹⁰³ unable to move

¹⁰⁴ caught in a dangerous position

¹⁰⁵ citizens, not members of the armed forces

¹⁰⁶ refused



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:17:42] Crassus wanted the **glory** of defeating Spartacus for himself, and he knew that if Spartacus was only defeated when Pompey arrived there would be no **glory** for him.

[00:17:54] As the Roman forces **tightened**¹⁰⁷ around the **gladiators**, Spartacus reportedly **resorted**¹⁰⁸ to some particularly violent acts to **strike fear**¹⁰⁹ into the hearts of his soldiers.

[00:18:07] One report has him asking for his horse to be brought to him.

[00:18:12] Spartacus, wanting to show to his men that there will be no escape from this battle, **plunges**¹¹⁰ his sword into the horse, killing the animal.

[00:18:23] Another report has him **crucifying**¹¹¹ a Roman prisoner in front of the **gladiators** as a way of showing his men what will happen to them if they do not defeat the Romans.

[00:18:35] Now, the final stages of the story of Spartacus are a little bit unclear, and the two main historical sources, Appian and Plutarch, have slightly different accounts, but they both end in a similar way.

¹⁰⁷ got closer

¹⁰⁸ turned to an extreme course of action in order to face a difficult situation

¹⁰⁹ make them be afraid

¹¹⁰ pushes quickly

¹¹¹ killing someone by nailing or tying them on a cross



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:18:50] Crassus had been building walls and tunnels to stop Spartacus's army from getting around them and escaping north.

[00:18:58] Spartacus and his forces were being pushed into a tighter¹¹² and tighter situation, and eventually they were pressured¹¹³ to fight.

[00:19:08] It was against Crassus's soldiers that they fought. The battle was bloody, and it was a resounding¹¹⁴ victory for the Romans.

[00:19:18] And as for Spartacus, what happened to him?

[00:19:22] If you've seen the iconic¹¹⁵ 1960 film, you'll remember exactly how it ended.

[00:19:28] Here's a short clip of it.

[00:19:30] Slaves. You were and slaves you remain, but the terrible penalty¹¹⁶ of crucifixion¹¹⁷ has been set aside on the single condition¹¹⁸ that you identify the body or the living person of the slave called Spartacus

¹¹² more difficult to deal with

¹¹³ forced

¹¹⁴ huge and impressive

¹¹⁵ very famous and popular

¹¹⁶ punishment

¹¹⁷ the act of killing someone by nailing or tying them on a cross

¹¹⁸ the situation that must exist before something else is possible



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:19:50] I am Spartacus. I am Spartacus. [everyone saying "I am Spartacus"].

[00:20:29] Yes, all of the soldiers bravely¹¹⁹ say that they are Spartacus, they would rather die than give up¹²⁰ the identity of their heroic¹²¹ leader. As a result, the Romans crucify¹²² them all, including Spartacus.

[00:20:45] Unfortunately this is just Hollywood, there is no evidence that this actually happened.

[00:20:51] Most historians agree that Spartacus was killed on the battlefield, and would have been thrown into a mass grave¹²³ like any other soldier.

[00:21:01] The Roman soldier who killed him might not have even known it was Spartacus when they killed him, and certainly now we would have no chance of identifying¹²⁴ who was Spartacus even if the mass grave was found.

¹¹⁹ showing no fear

¹²⁰ deliver it to the authorities

¹²¹ admired for having done something very brave and impressive

¹²² kill someone by nailing or tying them on a cross

¹²³ a place in the ground where dead people are buried

¹²⁴ knowing who someone is



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:21:17] And as for the **gladiators** who were not killed in the battle, they were taken up north to be an example to the world, or at least to other **slaves** and **gladiators**, of what happens when you **rise up**¹²⁵ against your masters.

[00:21:33] From Capua, just north of Naples where the **gladiators** first escaped, right through to Rome, 6,000 of Spartacus's men were **lined up**¹²⁶ on the side of the road and **crucified**¹²⁷, with their bodies left there for months as an example to others.

[00:21:53] But while Spartacus's final resting place may never be known, we may never know what he actually looked like, or why he did what he did, his story, his legend even, is as strong as ever.

[00:22:08] Of course the film and later on the TV series have helped popularise his story, but even before that he was **held up**¹²⁸ as a **role model**¹²⁹ of good vs evil, of someone who stood up against the **tyranny**¹³⁰ of Roman **slavery**.

[00:22:26] Voltaire considered the war Spartacus fought to be the only just war in history.

¹²⁵ take part in armed resistance

¹²⁶ placed in a way that formed a line

¹²⁷ kill by being nailed or tied on a cross

¹²⁸ presented

¹²⁹ a person considered a good example to follow

¹³⁰ not fair, violent and cruel government



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:22:33] Later on, in Soviet Russia he became a cult-like¹³¹ symbol.

[00:22:39] Karl Marx had called him "the most splendid¹³² fellow¹³³ in the whole of ancient history" and a "great general, noble character, real representative¹³⁴ of the ancient proletariat¹³⁵", and a Moscow football club changed its name to become "Spartak" Moscow.

[00:22:57] There was also the Spartacus League, a Marxist movement in Germany during World War I.

[00:23:04] To many, he is an icon¹³⁶, a revolutionary leader who was just trying to do the right thing.

¹³¹ looking like something that is loved by a particular group of people

¹³² very impressive

¹³³ man

¹³⁴ example

¹³⁵ people belonging to the low, working society class

¹³⁶ a person considered a symbol of something worthy



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:23:12] To some historians, I should add, he is considered to be a selfish¹³⁷ rebel, someone who was in essence¹³⁸ a thief¹³⁹, going up and down the Italian peninsula with his rebels and taking anything he could find.

[00:23:26] While we may never know the true story of Spartacus, what's most definitely true is that he led the biggest slave rebellion in ancient history, and one whose story has survived and inspired millions of oppressed¹⁴⁰ people for over 2,000 years.

[00:23:45] And as far as that's concerned, the legend of Spartacus certainly does live on.

[00:23:53] OK then, that is it for today's episode on Spartacus.

[00:23:58] I hope it's been an interesting one, that you've learnt something new, and even if you knew a little bit about this story before, it has helped fill in some of the gaps, and it has been fun to remind yourself of it.

[00:24:12] As always, I would love to know what you thought of this episode.

[00:24:15] The place to go for that is our community forum, which is at community.leonardoenglish.com.

¹³⁷ thinking only about himself

¹³⁸ in reality

¹³⁹ someone who illegally takes another person's property

¹⁴⁰ treated in a hard and not fair way



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

[00:24:22] You've been listening to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:24:27] I'm Alastair Budge, you stay safe, and I'll catch you in the next episode.

[END OF EPISODE]



Key vocabulary

Word	Definition
Gladiator	someone trained to fight against men or animals in an arena in ancient Rome
Uprising	an act of resistance against authority
Cult	something that is popular among a particular group in society
Loosely	in a way that is not exact
Admiration	respect and approval
Republicanism	the ideas behind a type of government in which the power belongs to the people
Ethnicity	the fact of belonging to a certain nation or race
Aqueducts	structures for carrying water across land
Partly	not completely
Admired	respected and approved
Slavery	the activity of using other people as property and forcing them to work for you



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

Gladiators	people trained to fight against men or animals in an arena in ancient Rome
Slaves	people who are used by other people as their property and are forced to work for them
Able	having the power and skill to do something
Sufficiently	enough
Owned	belonging to
Fame	the state of being known and recognized because of your abilities
Glory	the fact of being known and honoured because of your actions
Slave	someone who is used by other people as their property and is forced to work for them
Worthless	having no value in money
Gladiator's	of the person who is trained to fight against men or animals in an arena in ancient Rome
Captivity	the condition in which someone is a prisoner or cannot move or act freely
Cheered on	encouraged with shouts



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

Gladiatorial	relating to people trained to fight against men or animals in an arena in ancient Rome
Captured	taken as a prisoner
Overpower	defeat
Captors	the people that had caught them
Break out	escape
Caravan	a group of vehicles travelling together in line
Trainee	a person that is being trained for something
Intended	planned, meant
Escapees	people who are escaping from somewhere
Awaited	waited for
Overlooks	looks over
Eruption	the explosion of a volcano
Lush	having lots of green plants and trees
Goal	desired result
Abolishing	ending officially



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

Noble	brave and honourable
Aim	desired result
Risked	put something in danger
Signal	an action that gives a message or warning
Rebellious	relating to an act of resistance against authority
Potential	possible
Rebels	people who take action and resist against authority
Threat	danger
Posed	caused
Slopes	sides of a mountain
Surrounded	were all around
Blocked	stopped the movement through something
Steep	falling at a sharp angle
Cliff	a mountain side with a sharp falling angle
Ropes	strong thick lines or cords



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

Vines	a type of climbing plant
Lower	move into a low position
Cliffs	mountain sides with a sharp falling angles
Noticing	seeing
Massacre	kill a lot of people
Flocked	came together
De facto	in fact
Gauls	people coming from ancient Gaul
Gaul	a region of western Europe where modern France is located
Threats	dangers
Marched	walked quickly and in a military manner
Attracted	caused to participate in their army
Attractive	pleasing
Proposition	a suggested action
Swelled	grown in size



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

Relatively	when compared to other similar things
Shared	divided, owned by all of them in fair parts
Attraction	a quality that causes interest and desire
Factions	groups with different characteristics
Arising	appearing
Catch up	succeed in reaching someone
Slaughtered	killed in great numbers
March	walk quickly and in a military manner
Put forward	proposed or suggested
Peninsula	a long piece of land sticking out of the mainland into the sea
Capture	control by force
Seize	take and hold something quickly
Foreign	connected to a country that it wasn't their own
Blame	think that someone did something wrong
Sympathy	understanding and care



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

Cause an objective or purpose he was prepared to fight for

Set off started on a trip

Once and for all completely

Authentic original, real

Lieutenants people with an officer rank in the army

Legions large groups of soldiers, especially of an ancient Roman army

Specific clear and certain

Lieutenant a person with an officer rank in the army

Got ahead of himself did something sooner than it was supposed to happen without having made the necessary preparations

Confident sure about his abilities

Miscalculating thinking that it was less than it really was

Commander an officer who is leading a military operation

Disobeyed not followed

Executed killed as a legal punishment

Fear be afraid of someone



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

Disobey	refuse to follow
Disciplining	making them more willing to follow orders
Cross	go from one side of something to the other
Betrayed	tricked or deceived
Stuck	unable to move
Trapped	caught in a dangerous position
Civilians	citizens, not members of the armed forces
Rejected	refused
Tightened	got closer
Resorted	turned to an extreme course of action in order to face a difficult situation
Strike fear	make them be afraid
Plunges	pushes quickly
Crucifying	killing someone by nailing or tying them on a cross
Tighter	more difficult to deal with
Pressured	forced



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

Resounding	huge and impressive
Iconic	very famous and popular
Penalty	punishment
Crucifixion	the act of killing someone by nailing or tying them on a cross
Condition	the situation that must exist before something else is possible
Bravely	showing no fear
Give up	deliver it to the authorities
Heroic	admired for having done something very brave and impressive
Crucify	kill someone by nailing or tying them on a cross
Grave	a place in the ground where dead people are buried
Identifying	knowing who someone is
Rise up	take part in armed resistance
Lined up	placed in a way that formed a line
Crucified	kill by being nailed or tied on a cross
Held up	presented



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

Role model a person considered a good example to follow

Tyranny not fair, violent and cruel government

Cult-like looking like something that is loved by a particular group of people

Splendid very impressive

Fellow man

Representative example

Proletariat people belonging to the low, working society class

Icon a person considered a symbol of something worthy

Selfish thinking only about himself

In essence in reality

Thief someone who illegally takes another person's property

Oppressed treated in a hard and not fair way

We'd love to get your feedback on this episode.

What did you like? What could we do better?

What did you struggle to understand?



English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #193

Spartacus & The Gladiator War

Let us know in the forum community.leonardoenglish.com

