

ENGLISH LEARNING
FOR CURIOUS
MINDS



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Episode #314
Michael Jackson | The Troubled Life of The King of Pop
11th Nov, 2022

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

[00:00:12] 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 someone you've almost certainly heard of - Michael Jackson, "The King of Pop", or simply "MJ"

[00:00:33] He was a [child prodigy](#)¹ that became a [teen idol](#)², and then went on to become one of the biggest selling music artists of all time.

¹ a child with great talent or abilities

² a celebrity or person who is very popular among young people or a very successful young person

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[00:00:42] But, as you will know, his later life was **plagued**³ with controversy and **allegations**⁴ of the most **heinous**⁵ kind.

[00:00:50] So that is what we are going to be talking about today, the Troubled Life of The King of Pop.

[00:00:56] This episode does come with a **slight**⁶ warning that we will be talking about some of the crimes that Michael Jackson was accused of, so if you would rather not listen to that, please stop listening now.

[00:01:08] OK then, let's get into it and talk about the life of Michael Jackson.

[00:01:15] Michael Joseph Jackson was born into a working-class African-American family in Gary, Indiana, on August the 29th of 1958.

[00:01:26] He grew up in a **modest**⁷ two-bedroom house along with his eight siblings - quite the **squeeze**⁸, two parents and 9 children, 11 people in total, in only two bedrooms..

³ affected by (in a bad way)

⁴ statements or claims that he had done them

⁵ extremely bad, horrible

⁶ small

⁷ average, not large or expensive

⁸ a state of being forced into a small space

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[00:01:39] His father, Joe Jackson, worked for U.S Steel and was a tough man, a former boxer who also played guitar in a local RnB band.

[00:01:51] And Jackson's mother, Katherine Esher Jackson, worked in the department store Sears, and also played piano and [clarinet](#)⁹.

[00:02:01] Music, clearly, [ran in Jackson's blood](#)¹⁰.

[00:02:05] And the father, Joe, pushed all of the children in a musical direction from an early age.

[00:02:13] The first band was called the Jackson Brothers, which, unsurprisingly, consisted of the young Jackson boys.

[00:02:21] Michael joined the group when he was only six years old.

[00:02:26] Despite being an [otherwise](#)¹¹ [timid](#)¹², shy boy, Michael was a natural on stage and it quickly became clear that he was a very talented singer and dancer.

⁹ a musical instrument of the woodwind family in the shape of a pipe or tube

¹⁰ was an important characteristic of the Jackson family

¹¹ in a different situation

¹² shy and nervous

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[00:02:39] He became the group's **frontman**¹³, and soon enough, the Jackson Brothers were playing live shows in **strip clubs**¹⁴ and **burlesque**¹⁵ bars - the only places that would have them in Gary.

[00:02:52] They rehearsed **relentlessly**¹⁶, and Joe Jackson was a hard man, a **disciplinarian**¹⁷ who ruled the family - and the band - with fear, **with a rod of steel**¹⁸.

[00:03:07] The Jackson boys were allowed few friends, and they were forced to rehearse well into the night.

[00:03:14] Later in his life, Michael Jackson would state that his father beat them for making minor mistakes in rehearsals, and that he became so terrified of his father that, in his words, "there were times when he'd come to see me and I would start to be sick."

[00:03:33] In fact, Joe Jackson would often sit with a belt in hand as the Jacksons rehearsed, ready to punish any mistakes, and beat the children fiercely when one **slipped up**¹⁹, when one made a mistake.

¹³ lead singer

¹⁴ clubs or bars that had performers who danced while removing their clothes

¹⁵ offering a variety show for men

¹⁶ in an extreme way, without stopping

¹⁷ someone who expected them to follow very strict rules

¹⁸ in very strict or hard way

¹⁹ made a mistake

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[00:03:48] Worse still, it would be claimed that the father, Joe, would sexually abuse his children.

[00:03:55] That childhood [trauma](#)²⁰ would live with Michael for the rest of his life, and it's often raised when trying to make sense of the actions and controversy of his later years.

[00:04:07] In 1964, the group's name was changed to the Jackson 5.

[00:04:13] A year later, in 1965, the group won a talent show, and they were [on the way up](#)²¹.

[00:04:20] From 1966 to 1968, the Jackson 5 began touring the Midwest, playing mainly in black bars and clubs.

[00:04:30] And let's remember here that Michael hasn't even celebrated his 10th birthday - almost his entire life so far has been spent rehearsing and playing music.

[00:04:43] Although the Jackson boys initially performed [covers](#)²², their versions of other people's songs, in 1968 the Jackson 5 recorded their first original record for a local Indiana label, Steeltown Records, and their first single, "Big Boy", was released.

²⁰ emotional shock and pain

²¹ becoming successful

²² their versions of other people's songs

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[00:05:02] That same year, a Canadian singer discovered the group and brought them to the attention of the famous Motown Records.

[00:05:11] After their [audition](#)²³, Motown president Berry Gordy was so impressed with the Jackson 5 that he immediately signed them, and armed with an experienced group of songwriters, The Jackson 5 managed their first big hit in 1969 with “I Want You Back.”

[00:05:31] One influence you might not be aware of on the Jackson 5’s early career is another legendary singer, Diana Ross. She played an important role helping them after the entire Jackson family [decamped](#)²⁴ from Indiana and moved to California.

[00:05:49] She presented them to important [figures](#)²⁵ in the music industry, and in August of 1969 the Jackson 5 opened for Diana Ross & the Supremes in Los Angeles.

[00:06:01] They made their first TV appearance that same year, performing at the Miss Black America [pageant](#)²⁶ with a [cover](#)²⁷ of "It's Your Thing".

²³ a short performance to show their abilities

²⁴ left the place suddenly

²⁵ important people

²⁶ beauty contest

²⁷ their version of the song

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[00:06:10] Following the show, the influential Rolling Stone magazine described Michael, in particular, as "a [prodigy](#)²⁸" with "[overwhelming](#)²⁹ musical gifts."

[00:06:23] Michael Jackson's life was never - could never - be the same again.

[00:06:28] Yet, though he would later admit that he was unhappy, lonely, and [overworked](#)³⁰, the successes [kept coming](#)³¹ for Michael and the Jackson 5.

[00:06:39] And in early 1970, "I Want You Back" reached number one in the US Billboard Hot 100 - their first number one hit and the first of many in Jackson's life.

[00:06:51] They quickly went on to top the charts with other well-known classics like "ABC" and "I'll Be There."

[00:06:58] And let's remember here, in 1970, when the Jackson 5 had their first number one, Michael Jackson was only 11 years old, he was still a young child.

[00:07:10] But as the Jackson 5 grew in [fame](#)³² and popularity, Michael emerged as the star of the family, and moved from being a [child prodigy](#) to a [teen idol](#).

²⁸ a child with great talent or abilities

²⁹ very great, fantastic

³⁰ having worked too much

³¹ continued to happen

³² the state of being well-known

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[00:07:23] A **teen idol**, by the way, usually means an artist or actor with a big teenage **fanbase**³³, but in this case it was both as Michael was himself also still a teenager.

[00:07:37] Or you could say, Michael wasn't even a teenager yet.

[00:07:41] Despite his young age, he was a **trailblazer**³⁴, someone who **forges**³⁵ a new path.

[00:07:48] His performance on the group's record "Dancing Machine" popularised the robot dance.

[00:07:54] And it was in the late-1970's that Michael really began to **break away**³⁶ from his brothers, to **break out**³⁷ on his own.

[00:08:02] In 1978, he made his film debut as the Scarecrow in a remake of The Wizard Of Oz, with Diana Ross playing Dorothy.

[00:08:12] Then a year later, aged still only 21, Jackson recorded the iconic solo album Off The Wall, which brought him his first Number one solo singles with " Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" and "Rock With You".

³³ group of people who were his admirers or fans

³⁴ someone who creates or shapes a new path

³⁵ creates, shapes

³⁶ separate himself

³⁷ begin working

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[00:08:27] And the commercial and critical successes only grew.

[00:08:31] A year after that, in 1980, he won his first Grammy Award for Best R&B Male Vocal Performance, and in 1982 he released Thriller, which had a [staggering³⁸](#) seven singles from the album in the top 10, including some you probably know well, such as "Billie Jean," "Beat It," and, of course, "Thriller."

[00:08:54] And you may also know that Thriller wasn't famous only for its music.

[00:08:59] Thriller might be the most famous music video of all time, where Jackson, who had become a werewolf in the video, first [unveiled³⁹](#) his [signature⁴⁰](#) dance move, the moonwalk.

[00:09:12] By now Michael was the biggest pop star in the world - he was the King of Pop.

[00:09:19] He was rich beyond his wildest dreams, and it seemed that practically everything he released went to Number one.

[00:09:27] His personal life, however, was becoming a bit... well, strange.

³⁸ shocking, very impressive

³⁹ presented, revealed

⁴⁰ characteristic, distinctive

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[00:09:33] In the 1980s, Jackson became somewhat of a [recluse](#)⁴¹ - someone who lives a [withdrawn](#)⁴² life and avoids other people.

[00:09:41] He was also developing a reputation as a little [eccentric](#)⁴³, or weird.

[00:09:47] In 1984, he moved to a 1,100 hectare [ranch](#)⁴⁴ in California called Neverland, where he had an amusement park, zoo, and a [Ferris wheel](#)⁴⁵ built.

[00:09:59] And in January of that year, Michael and some of his siblings filmed an advert for Pepsi, but as he was dancing the pyrotechnic effects set his Afro hair on fire.

[00:10:14] Unaware of what was happening, he kept dancing, continuing with his routine until someone [grabbed](#)⁴⁶ him and put the fire out.

⁴¹ a person who lives a lonely life and avoids other people

⁴² away from other people, quiet

⁴³ weird, strange

⁴⁴ a large farm where animals are kept

⁴⁵ a very large wheel in amusement parks that has seats around its edge where people sit while the wheel turns

⁴⁶ took hold of, seized suddenly

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[00:10:23] The accident left Jackson with second-degree burns to his [scalp](#)⁴⁷, and he had treatment - including a [nose job](#)⁴⁸ - to hide the [scarring](#)⁴⁹, to hide the damage from the burns.

[00:10:37] It was around this time that rumours began to [swirl](#)⁵⁰ around Hollywood that Jackson was lightening his skin through chemical treatment, that he was changing the colour of his skin.

[00:10:49] Michael Jackson was, as you will know, African American, he was black, but throughout the 1980's his skin started becoming [paler](#)⁵¹.

[00:11:00] This change in appearance, Jackson claimed, was due to a skin condition known as vitiligo.

[00:11:09] Vitiligo is, of course, a real skin disorder, but there were other changes in Michael Jackson's appearance that have nothing to do with vitiligo, and everything to do with someone trying to change their appearance through plastic surgery.

⁴⁷ the skin of his head where hair grows

⁴⁸ operation or surgery to change the appearance of his nose

⁴⁹ the damage or markings from the burns

⁵⁰ move quickly

⁵¹ lighter in colour

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[00:11:25] His nose was **bleached**⁵², his lips were **thinned**⁵³, and his chin **reshaped**⁵⁴.

[00:11:31] He looked, as you will probably know if you have seen pictures of him as a child and then as a man, like a different person.

[00:11:40] But while his appearance may have changed completely, the quality of his music did not.

[00:11:47] After a few years without releasing an album, Jackson's highly anticipated next release, "Bad", was a huge hit.

[00:11:56] In August of 1987, this album, "Bad" became the first album to produce five US number-one singles.

[00:12:05] The album was also the first to be number 1 in 25 countries and was the best-selling album around the globe in both 1987 and 1988.

[00:12:17] Now Jackson was not just the King of Pop, he was **head and shoulders above**⁵⁵ anyone else - breaking records and dominating the charts around the world.

[00:12:28] But behind all the success, behind the Number 1 albums and moonwalks and music videos, there was a darker side to Jackson's life.

⁵² made white

⁵³ made thinner or smaller

⁵⁴ shaped or formed differently

⁵⁵ far better than or above

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[00:12:39] Now, we get to the other part of Michael Jackson.

[00:12:42] The more uncomfortable part.

[00:12:45] The aspect of his life that is, unfortunately, [inseparable](#)⁵⁶ from the amazing music that he created, and for some people [outweighs](#)⁵⁷ his enormous success as a musician and for others is so great that they refuse to listen to his music.

[00:13:03] In August of 1993, reports emerged that the Los Angeles Police Department was investigating Jackson.

[00:13:11] The police had received that he [molested](#)⁵⁸, abused, four children, including a 13-year-old boy.

[00:13:22] After searching his Neverland [ranch](#), the police failed to find any [incriminating](#)⁵⁹ evidence.

[00:13:28] But in September of that year, one of the families filed a lawsuit against Jackson, alleging that he "repeatedly committed sexual [battery](#)⁶⁰" on their 13 year old son.

⁵⁶ closely connected with

⁵⁷ is more important than

⁵⁸ abused

⁵⁹ making him seem guilty

⁶⁰ attack, violence

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[00:13:42] Defenders of Jackson, and his legal team, claimed the [allegations](#) were a way of [extorting](#)⁶¹ the star for millions of dollars, they were trying to get money out of the pop star.

[00:13:55] Many years later, however, it was revealed that Jackson privately [settled](#)⁶² the lawsuit for more than 20 million dollars, though he denied any "wrongful acts."

[00:14:07] It seems that some of the parents of the children also refused to believe that anything [untoward](#)⁶³, anything [dodgy](#)⁶⁴, had happened.

[00:14:18] In 1993, one of the mother's spoke publicly about her child's "[slumber parties](#)⁶⁵" with the singer at the Neverland [ranch](#).

[00:14:26] "They play so hard, they fall asleep, they're exhausted," she told the interviewer, [seemingly](#)⁶⁶ unable, or unwilling, to accept the [allegations](#). "There's nothing more to it than that."

⁶¹ getting money out of him

⁶² reached an agreement about, resolved

⁶³ unexpected or unpleasant

⁶⁴ dishonest

⁶⁵ parties for teenagers in which all the guests stayed the night at his house

⁶⁶ apparently, supposedly

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[00:14:38] It seemed that prosecutors were also struggling to [pin⁶⁷](#) anything on Jackson, to find him guilty of any crimes.

[00:14:47] In September of 1994, after a year of trying, prosecutors announced that they could not make criminal charges against Jackson because the key victim didn't want to testify.

[00:14:59] Jackson had [got away with it⁶⁸](#), or so it seemed.

[00:15:04] But then, in December of that year, Jackson's sister La Toya publicly said that the claims were true.

[00:15:14] "This is very difficult for me," she said in a press conference. "Michael is my brother. ... But I cannot, and will not, be a silent [collaborator⁶⁹](#) of his crimes against small, innocent children."

[00:15:29] She also claimed that she knew of ['hush money'⁷⁰](#) paid out to the families of young boys going back to the 1980's.

⁶⁷ find him guilty of

⁶⁸ succeeded in avoiding punishment

⁶⁹ helper, supporter

⁷⁰ money paid to someone to stop them from revealing damaging information

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[00:15:38] **Hush money**, by the way, is money paid to someone to stop them from **disclosing**⁷¹ damaging information.

[00:15:46] Other members of the Jackson family, including his mother, defended him, but the rumours and **allegations dogged**⁷², they followed, Jackson for the rest of his life.

[00:15:58] While all this was all going on, Jackson married Lisa Marie Presley, Elvis's daughter, in May of 1994, but the marriage only lasted a couple of years, the pair divorced in August of 1996.

[00:16:12] Jackson then married a lady called Debbie Rowe, his dermatologist's assistant, on November the 13th of 1996, and the pair had two children before they divorced less than three years later.

[00:16:27] Rowe would later claim that she and Jackson never actually had sex, the children were **conceived**⁷³ through **artificial insemination**⁷⁴.

[00:16:37] Rumours of Jackson's sexuality and private life, including the accusations of child abuse, showed no signs of **dying down**⁷⁵.

⁷¹ revealing, making it known

⁷² followed

⁷³ created

⁷⁴ a medical way for making a woman pregnant without sexual contact

⁷⁵ becoming quieter

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[00:16:47] Then, in November 2003, Jackson was arrested on charges of child [molestation](#)⁷⁶ after police again raided his Neverland [ranch](#).

[00:16:57] After posting \$3 million dollars in bail and giving up his passport, Jackson was [indicted](#)⁷⁷ on, he was formally accused of 10 criminal charges, including child [molestation](#) and false imprisonment.

[00:17:12] In February of 2005 the case went to court, with the whole world watching.

[00:17:19] Among those defending Jackson in court was the child actor Macaulay Culkin.

[00:17:25] In court it was established that Culkin and other underage boys regularly slept with Jackson in his bed, but Culkin denied that Jackson ever acted inappropriately.

[00:17:37] Rather, he described Jackson as a ‘special friend.’

[00:17:42] The alleged victim in this case, however, claimed in court that Jackson sexually abused him, [plied](#)⁷⁸ him with alcohol and showed him pornography.

⁷⁶ abuse, sexual assault

⁷⁷ formally accused of

⁷⁸ provided in a continuous way

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[00:17:53] A former member of Jackson's housekeeping staff at his Neverland **ranch** testified that she had seen the singer taking a shower with a young boy, and that her own son alleged that Jackson also **molested** him.

[00:18:08] As you might imagine, given Jackson's **fame**, the trial was a **media frenzy**⁷⁹ and developed a circus-like atmosphere.

[00:18:18] Some in the press felt that Jackson didn't take the **allegations** against him, or the trial in general, seriously, and on one occasion Jackson arrived late to the courtroom still in his pyjamas.

[00:18:32] Yet despite the terrible claims against him, on June the 13th of 2005, Jackson was **acquitted**⁸⁰ of all criminal charges, he was **off the hook**⁸¹, he was free.

[00:18:44] According to media reports at the time, some **jurors**⁸² appeared to blame the **alleged**⁸³ victim's mother, rather than Jackson.

⁷⁹ intense or lots of media coverage

⁸⁰ freed, cleared from

⁸¹ free, in the clear

⁸² people who had been chosen to listen to the case and decide whether he was guilty or not guilty

⁸³ said to have been one without giving proof

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[00:18:53] "What mother [in her right mind](#)⁸⁴ would allow that to happen?" one female [juror](#)⁸⁵ reportedly asked.

[00:19:00] Indeed, a few months later, prosecutors would charge one of the [alleged](#) victim's mothers with [perjury](#)⁸⁶, in other words, lying in court.

[00:19:11] Now, although Jackson was [acquitted](#) of all criminal charges, the court of public opinion wasn't so kind to him, and rumours that he was a child sex abuser continued.

[00:19:23] But then something even more unexpected happened.

[00:19:27] On June the 25th, 2009, Jackson was found [unresponsive](#)⁸⁷ at his home.

[00:19:35] At a mere 50 years old, The King of Pop was dead.

[00:19:41] Although it was initially believed by the Jackson family that he had died of [cardiac arrest](#)⁸⁸, of a heart attack, in November of 2011 a doctor, Conrad Murray, was

⁸⁴ In a healthy mental state

⁸⁵ person who had been chosen to listen to the case and decide whether he was guilty or not guilty

⁸⁶ lying in court

⁸⁷ not reacting, unconscious

⁸⁸ a heart attack

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found guilty of involuntary [manslaughter](#)⁸⁹ for giving Jackson a deadly [dose](#)⁹⁰ of an [anaesthetic](#)⁹¹.

[00:20:00] Jackson, it would be revealed, was heavily addicted to prescription drugs, and it seems that this time his doctor had got the [doses](#)⁹² wrong, and given him so much it put him to sleep forever.

[00:20:14] Now, in terms of his legacy, there are few individuals who can claim to have had a greater impact on the world of pop music, and certainly few people who have lived more of their life on stage than Michael Jackson.

[00:20:29] For over five decades, Michael Jackson, dominated the music scene with [relentless](#)⁹³ number one hits, his [signature](#) dance moves, [groundbreaking](#)⁹⁴ music videos and [unrivalled](#)⁹⁵ [showmanship](#)⁹⁶.

[00:20:43] Yet the second half of his career was [dogged](#) by [allegations](#) of child abuse.

⁸⁹ the crime of killing him unintentionally or without having planned to do it

⁹⁰ measured amount

⁹¹ a substance that made him unable to feel pain

⁹² measured amounts

⁹³ continuous, non-stop

⁹⁴ original, being a big change from others

⁹⁵ better than everything of the same type

⁹⁶ the ability to entertain

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[00:20:49] Some of his **die-hard**⁹⁷ fans still refuse to believe the accusations, arguing that he was **targeted**⁹⁸ by people wanting to get money out of him.

[00:20:59] Some accept them but point to his own childhood **trauma** as justification, arguing that he was never allowed to be a child himself, that he had been abused by his father, and it is ridiculous for anyone to have expected him to behave normally.

[00:21:16] Others simply refuse to listen to his music, disgusted by the accusations of the **atrocious**⁹⁹ acts he is **alleged** to have committed against children.

[00:21:27] No matter your opinion on Michael Jackson “the man”, it’s **undeniable**¹⁰⁰ that he had a huge impact on music and **defined**¹⁰¹ what it meant to be a pop star.

[00:21:39] Perhaps, when thinking about Michael Jackson, we are presented with the same question as when thinking about the violent but brilliant Renaissance painter, Caravaggio, the artist Pablo Picasso, who has been accused of being a **misogynist**¹⁰² and once said “women are machines for suffering” or any public figure who has created

⁹⁷ extremely loyal, hardcore

⁹⁸ made the object of their attention

⁹⁹ very bad, horrible

¹⁰⁰ certain

¹⁰¹ gave meaning to

¹⁰² a man who hates women or believes they are worse than men

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something wonderful but has views we don't agree with or who has been accused of something terrible.

[00:22:07] And that is the question of whether we can ever really separate the musician from the music, the artist from the art?

[00:22:18] OK then, that is it for today's episode on Michael Jackson, the child star who became the King of Pop.

[00:22:26] A man who had, to say the very least, an unhealthy interest in young boys and died in mysterious circumstances.

[00:22:35] I hope it was an interesting one, and whether you knew a lot about Michael Jackson and his life before today, or this was the first time you'd really heard anything about him, well I hope you learned something new.

[00:22:47] As always, I would love to know what you thought about this episode.

[00:22:51] Do you think Jackson was guilty of the [accusations¹⁰³](#) against him?

[00:22:54] Do you think we can ever separate the man from his music?

[00:22:58] If you're a Michael Jackson fan, what's your favourite song, and why?

[00:23:03] I would love to know, so let's get this discussion started.

¹⁰³ claims that he had done illegal things

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[00:23:06] You can head right into our community forum, which is at
community.leonardoenglish.com and get chatting away to other curious minds.

[00:23:14] You've been listening to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo
English.

[00:23:19] I'm Alastair Budge, you stay safe, and I'll catch you in the next episode.

[END OF EPISODE]

Key vocabulary

Word	Definition
Child prodigy	a child with great talent or abilities
Teen idol	a celebrity or person who is very popular among young people or a very successful young person
Plagued	affected by (in a bad way)
Allegations	statements or claims that he had done them
Heinous	extremely bad, horrible
Slight	small
Modest	average, not large or expensive
Squeeze	a state of being forced into a small space
Clarinet	a musical instrument of the woodwind family in the shape of a pipe or tube
Ran in Jackson's blood	was an important characteristic of the Jackson family
Otherwise	in a different situation

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Timid	shy and nervous
Frontman	lead singer
Strip clubs	clubs or bars that had performers who danced while removing their clothes
Burlesque	offering a variety show for men
Relentlessly	in a extreme way, without stopping
Disciplinarian	someone who expected them to follow very strict rules
With a rod of steel	in very strict or hard way
Slipped up	made a mistake
Trauma	emotional shock and pain
On the way up	becoming successful
Covers	their versions of other people's songs
Audition	a short performance to show their abilities
Decamped	left the place suddenly
Figures	important people
Pageant	beauty contest

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Cover	their version of the song
Prodigy	a child with great talent or abilities
Overwhelming	very great, fantastic
Overworked	having worked too much
Kept coming	continued to happen
Fame	the state of being well-known
Fanbase	group of people who were his admirers or fans
Trailblazer	someone who creates or shapes a new path
Forges	creates, shapes
Break away	separate himself
Break out	begin working
Staggering	shocking, very impressive
Unveiled	presented, revealed
Signature	characteristic, distinctive
Recluse	a person who lives a lonely life and avoids other people

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Withdrawn	away from other people, quiet
Eccentric	weird, strange
Ranch	a large farm where animals are kept
Ferris wheel	a very large wheel in amusement parks that has seats around its edge where people sit while the wheel turns
Grabbed	took hold of, seized suddenly
Scalp	the skin of his head where hair grows
Nose job	operation or surgery to change the appearance of his nose
Scarring	the damage or markings from the burns
Swirl	move quickly
Paler	lighter in colour
Bleached	made white
Thinned	made thinner or smaller
Reshaped	shaped or formed differently
Head and shoulders above	far better than or above above

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Inseparable	closely connected with
Outweighs	is more important than
Molested	abused
Incriminating	making him seem guilty
Battery	attack, violence
Extorting	getting money out of him
Settled	reached an agreement about, resolved
Untoward	unexpected or unpleasant
Dodgy	dishonest
Slumber parties	parties for teenagers in which all the guests stayed the night at his house
Seemingly	apparently, supposedly
Pin	find him guilty of
Got away with it	succeeded in avoiding punishment
Collaborator	helper, supporter
Hush money	money paid to someone to stop them from revealing damaging

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information

Disclosing revealing, making it known

Dogged followed

Conceived created

**Artificial
insemination** a medical way for making a woman pregnant without sexual contact

Dying down becoming quieter

Molestation abuse, sexual assault

Indicted formally accused of

Plied provided in a continuous way

Media frenzy intense or lots of media coverage

Acquitted freed, cleared from

Off the hook free, in the clear

Jurors people who had been chosen to listen to the case and decide whether
he was guilty or not guilty

Alleged said to have been one without giving proof

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In her right mind	In a healthy mental state
Juror	person who had been chosen to listen to the case and decide whether he was guilty or not guilty
Perjury	lying in court
Unresponsive	not reacting, unconscious
Cardiac arrest	a heart attack
Manslaughter	the crime of killing him unintentionally or without having planned to do it
Dose	measured amount
Anaesthetic	a substance that made him unable to feel pain
Doses	measured amounts
Relentless	continuous, non-stop
Groundbreaking	original, being a big change from others
Unrivalled	better than everything of the same type
Showmanship	the ability to entertain
Die-hard	extremely loyal, hardcore

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Targeted	made the object of their attention
Atrocious	very bad, horrible
Undeniable	certain
Defined	gave meaning to
Misogynist	a man who hates women or believes they are worse than men
Accusations	claims that he had done illegal things

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?

Let us know in the forum community.leonardoenglish.com