

Michael Jackson: The King of Pop

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The story step by step

- 1 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 1 on your CD/download (from 'Michael Joseph Jackson' to 'for other people'). You will hear the words in the box below. Group the words according to the stress patterns. The filled box indicates the stressed sound. There are seven words for each stress pattern.

The first one of each pattern is an example: 'poor' ■; 'August' ■□; 'along' □■; and 'industrial' □■□.

| | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| August | shore | survival |
| poor | awful | depended |
| industrial | complained | became |
| corner | because | remarried |
| Chicago | lined | dropped |
| problems | after | November |
| people | alive | beliefs |
| worked | divorced | taught |
| along | learned | |
| southern | important | |

| ■ | ■□ | □■ | □■□ |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <i>poor</i> | <i>August</i> | <i>along</i> | <i>industrial</i> |
| | | | |
| | | | |
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- 2 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 2 on your CD/download (from 'The next day' to 'he was too young to understand'). Match the member of the Jackson family with his or her musical ability (some of them have more than one).

| | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Jackie | a danced |
| 2 Jermaine | b played the clarinet |
| 3 La Toya | c played the guitar |
| 4 Maureen | d played the piano |
| 5 Michael | e sang |
| 6 Tito | |

- 3 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 3 on your CD/download (from 'As the weeks' to 'up, up, up'), and fill in the gaps below with the past simple verbs you hear. The first one is an example.
- 1 As the weeks and months passed, Joe _____ more and more sure that all the hard work _____ worth it. He _____ the children _____ talent. He _____ they _____ be successful. But he _____ not want to rush things. In 1965, after three years of almost daily rehearsal, Joe _____ that his sons _____ finally ready to perform in public.
 - 2 The Jackson Brothers _____ to enter local talent contests. Every time they _____, they _____ the other performers to get ideas. They _____ new dance moves, _____ new songs and _____ new clothes. They never _____ trying to improve their act. They never _____ they _____ good enough. Joe _____ perfection. He _____ every part of the performance to impress the judges and the audience.
 - 3 When Michael _____ nearly eight years old, the Jacksons _____ another talent contest. They _____ against performers from all over the city of Gary. They _____ the Temptations' song *My Girl*. The audience at Roosevelt High School _____ and _____ as Marlon and Jackie _____, and Michael and Jermaine _____. When the show _____ over, the first place prize was _____—it _____ to The Jackson Brothers. As he _____ home with the band's first trophy on the front seat next to him, Joe _____ very proud.
 - 4 The Jackson Brothers _____ to perform at talent contests, shopping centers and dances. Before long, they had won many more first place trophies. Michael later _____, "After that, we _____ winning every talent contest we _____. It was just going from one thing to another, up, up, up.
- 4 Listen to Chapter 4 on your CD/download and correct the names of the famous people, places and TV shows you hear. The first one is an example.
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Apple Theater <u>Apollo Theater</u> | 10 Chitlin' Circus _____ |
| 2 York City's Harlem district _____ | 11 The David Fog Show _____ |
| 3 Elizabeth Fitzgerald _____ | 12 Nowtown _____ |
| 4 Sally Vaughn _____ | 13 Dallas, Michigan _____ |
| 5 Billie Vacation _____ | 14 Los Devils _____ |
| 6 Diana Ross and the Excellents _____ | 15 Strawberry Gordy _____ |
| 7 Gladys Knight and the Pipes _____ | 16 Smokey Robinson and the Mistakes _____ |
| 8 James Blue _____ | 17 Marilyn Gaye _____ |
| 9 Jenny Hendrix _____ | 18 The Temporaries _____ |
| | 19 Stevie Normal _____ |

5 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 6 on your CD/download (from 'I Want You Back' to 'was much more nervous') and decide if the following sentences are True (T) or False (F).

- 1 By January 1970 The Jackson 5's song *I Want You Back* reached Number 1. T
- 2 Their first album, *Diana Ross Presents The Jackson 5*, was not a success.
- 3 Their second single, *ABC*, was not as big a hit as their first one.
- 4 They had their third number one hit in the summer of 1970.
- 5 The Jackson 5 were popular with white as well as black audiences.
- 6 There were a lot of serious stories about The Jackson 5 in teen magazines.
- 7 Other groups tried to be different from The Jackson 5.
- 8 The boys weren't as nervous as their father about their first appearance on TV.

6 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 7 on your CD/download (from 'The Jackson's public life' to 'At first the Jackson family') and complete the Jackson household rules you hear. The first one is an example.

There was still homework to do, and each _____ had _____ to do around the _____.
 _____ could not be _____ than _____. Each _____ got a _____
 _____, but this was _____ if he did his _____ and _____ at _____.

7 Listen to Chapter 7 on your CD/download again (from 'Gordy was very happy' to 'not by The Jackson 5) and tick the countries you hear. The first one is an example.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Great Britain | ✓ |
| England | |
| Scotland | |
| Holland | |
| France | |
| Finland | |
| Greece | |
| Germany | |
| Hungary | |
| Italy | |
| Japan | |
| Jamaica | |
| Austria | |
| Australia | |

10 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 11 on your CD/download (from 'After the destiny album' to 'He was impressed') and complete the text with the conjunctions you hear. The first one is an example.

- 1 After the *Destiny* album was finished, Michael wanted to begin work on a solo album.
- 2 _____ he was making *The Wiz*, he talked to the movie's musical director, Quincy Jones.
- 3 _____ *The Wiz* was a failure, great success would come from this conversation with Quincy Jones.
- 4 Quincy would help and give advice, _____ Michael would make the decisions.
- 5 He was happy that Michael was always prepared _____ he got to the recording studio.
- 6 _____ Quincy began to work with Michael, he became more confident.

11 Listen to Chapter 12 on your CD/download and answer the questions. The first one is an example.

- 1 How old was Michael Jackson in August 1979? twenty-one
- 2 What did he tell his father? _____
- 3 Why was Michael unhappy with Joe? _____
- 4 How did Joe feel about Michael's desire for freedom? _____
- 5 How much money did Michael have in his bank account? _____
- 6 With whom did Michael meet? _____
- 7 What were the two different Michaels like? _____
- 8 Why was Michael upset at the 1980 Grammy Awards? _____
- 9 Which magazine did Michael want to be on the cover of? _____

12 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 14 on your CD/download (from 'In August 1982' to 'favorite place on earth'). Match the numbers with the information they refer to.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1 3 | a Michael Jackson's age when <i>Thriller</i> was released |
| 2 24 | b number of copies of <i>Thriller</i> bought every week after its release |
| 3 37 | c number of songs Michael wrote for the <i>Thriller</i> album |
| 4 50 | d number of songs Michael and Quincy listened to for the album |
| 5 300 | e number of weeks <i>Thriller</i> was number one album in the USA |
| 6 1982 | f the percentage of the family home sold by Joe to Michael Jackson |
| 7 1983 | g the year Joe Jackson had financial problems |
| 8 500,000 | h the year <i>Thriller</i> was released |
| 9 110 million | i total copies of <i>Thriller</i> bought around the world |

- 13 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 15 on your CD/download (from 'In 1983' to 'without any big Motown stars'). The sentences below are taken from this chapter. Some of the 'r's are underlined, but not all of them make the same sound. If you hear the /r/ sound, tick the column on the right. If you do not hear /r/, put a cross. The first two are examples.

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | In 1983, the wor <u>l</u> d was in love with Michael Jackson. | ✗ |
| 2 | In Mar <u>ch</u> , <i>Billie Jean</i> was the number one song in the world. | ✓ |
| 3 | In the same month, his contract with his father and brother <u>s</u> ended. | |
| 4 | She was trying to org <u>an</u> ize a television show. | |
| 5 | Berry Gordy had had difficult r <u>el</u> ationships with many of his stars. | |
| 6 | When dePasse asked them to appear <u> </u> in the show, many said no. | |
| 7 | Diana Ross r <u>ef</u> used to appear with the Supremes. | |
| 8 | He was still angry because of the way he had treated the family. | |
| 9 | He wanted to see his sons back together <u> </u> . | |
| 10 | Suzanne dePasse was wor <u>ri</u> ed that the show would be silly. | |

- 14 Listen to the beginning of Chapter 16 on your CD/download (from 'At the Grammy Awards' to 'poster of Michael'). You will hear the words in the box below. One of the sounds in each word is underlined. Group the words according to the underlined sound. There are six words for each sound. The first one of each sound is an example.

eyes came shields winners *Thriller* eight times stage since
 missed financial take agreed write excited say career been
free meeting explained week this life-size

| /ɪ/ | /i:/ | /eɪ/ | /aɪ/ |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>w<u>i</u>nners</i> | <i>sh<u>i</u>lds</i> | <i>c<u>a</u>me</i> | <i><u>e</u>yes</i> |
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- 15 Listen to Chapter 17 on your CD/download and tick the album titles you hear.

Bad Blood on the Dance Floor Dangerous HIStory Invincible Off the Wall Thriller

- 16 Listen to Chapter 18 on your CD/download and put these events in the order in which they happen. The first and the last have been done for you.

- a He created the Heal the World Foundation. ____
- b He performed for his biggest audience ever during the Super Bowl. ____
- c He was interviewed live by Oprah Winfrey. ____
- d He went on the worldwide *Dangerous* tour and gave the profits to charity. ____
- e Michael built a huge amusement park and zoo at Neverland. ____
- f Michael Jackson won The Living Legend Award. 7
- g Michael moved out of his parents' home in Encino. 1

- 17 Listen to Chapter 19 on your CD/download (from 'Michael Jackson's final years' to 'We will never know') and complete the text with the words and phrases you hear. The first one is an example.

Michael Jackson's final years were filled with *madness*, _____ and _____.

He continued to work with _____. In 1999, he appeared at _____ to raise _____ for several charities which _____. He _____ two times and had _____.

In _____ 1994, he married Lisa Marie Presley, the _____ of the _____ Elvis Presley. They were married for _____ years.

In _____ 1996, he married Deborah Jeanne Rowe. During their two-year _____, they had two _____ together: a _____, Michael Joseph Jr. (usually called _____) and a _____, Paris Michael Katherine.

In _____ 2002, Michael had another _____, a son named Prince Michael Jackson II (usually called _____). No one knows who the _____ was.

Michael also began to have _____. For many years, he fought with Sony _____ about _____. His financial _____ was very _____. He was making _____ of millions of _____ and losing hundreds of _____ of dollars. Although some _____ said that he had no _____, he continued to live like the _____ of _____.

Michael Jackson's _____ and _____ life came to an end on _____ 25, _____. Millions of fans around the _____ were _____ and saddened by his _____. They talked about his great _____ and they talked about _____. "Who was Michael Jackson?" they asked.

That is the _____. Who was the _____ Michael Jackson? Was he the _____ Michael—a _____, _____ boy in a man's _____? Or was he the _____ Michael—a _____ who made _____? Perhaps he was both. We will never know.