

ENGLISH LEARNING FOR CURIOUS MINDS



Thank you - your ongoing membership makes Leonardo English possible.
If you have questions we'd love to hear from you: hi@leonardoenglish.com

Episode #304

The Life of Donald Trump

7th Oct, 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 the life of Donald Trump.

[00:00:28] Now, no doubt you need no reminder of who Donald Trump is.

[00:00:32] His presidency was one of the most [controversial](#)¹ in recent American political history, and impossible to ignore.

[00:00:41] We're all well aware of his [scandals](#)²: all the things he said and did - both true and 'fake news', as he would say.

¹ causing disagreement or discussion

² actions or events that caused public shock or anger

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:00:48] But we're not here to talk about his presidency today.

[00:00:52] We're here to talk about his life before he became leader of the free world.

[00:00:57] We'll take a look at his early life and the impact of his parents.

[00:01:01] His businesses, and many business failures.

[00:01:04] His [scandals](#), and criminal investigations.

[00:01:07] And consider whether or not he really wanted to be president, or he simply became the most powerful man in the world... by accident.

[00:01:17] OK then, the life of Donald Trump.

[00:01:22] On a June afternoon in 2015, a small crowd waited around in the basement of a [midtown](#)³ Manhattan [skyscraper](#)⁴.

[00:01:32] There was a small stage, and posters promising to 'Make America Great Again' on the walls.

[00:01:39] Then, suddenly, everyone turned and all eyes looked up towards a golden escalator.

[00:01:47] First, the shoes came into view.

³ the central part of a city, between the downtown and uptown areas

⁴ very tall modern building

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:01:49] Then the legs, the [midsection](#)⁵, the tie, and, finally, a [shock](#)⁶ of poorly dyed blonde hair and a [cheesy](#)⁷ [grin](#)⁸.

[00:01:59] The reality TV star and businessman Donald Trump was slowly descending the golden escalator, and he just announced his [candidacy](#)⁹ to be president of the United States.

[00:02:11] It was an escalator ride that [altered](#)¹⁰ American history forever.

[00:02:16] Almost exactly 69 years before this, a Scottish immigrant named Mary MacLeod gave birth to a boy.

[00:02:24] His name was Donald John Trump, and he was born in New York on the 14th of June, 1946.

[00:02:33] His father, Fred Trump, was a [brash](#)¹¹, [outspoken](#)¹² New York real estate developer.

⁵ the middle part of his body

⁶ a feeling of strong surprise

⁷ broad but not honest or true (for a smile)

⁸ smile

⁹ the fact of entering the election

¹⁰ changed

¹¹ showing too much confidence in a rude way

¹² expressing strong opinions openly

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:02:40] Fred and Donald were, you could say, a great example of the famous phrase:
'Like father, like son.'

[00:02:47] Fred Trump had made his fortune building thousands of apartment units,
mostly in Brooklyn, New York, for some of the city's poorest people.

[00:02:57] But he didn't do this [out of the goodness of his heart¹³](#), of course.

[00:03:01] Rather, Fred Trump took government money to build social housing, but
didn't quite tell the real truth about how much the construction, the building would
cost, meaning he would charge the government more and put the difference in his
pocket.

[00:03:18] While clearly, as a businessman, he was allowed to make a profit, his
business practices [raised eyebrows¹⁴](#) so much that he was investigated in 1954 by the
Senate Banking Committee for overestimating the costs of his construction projects
and keeping the difference for himself.

[00:03:37] But that's just the start.

¹³ because he was kind or selfless

¹⁴ caused disapproval or suspicion

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:03:39] Fred Trump was not only a man of [questionable](#)¹⁵, [shady](#)¹⁶ business practices, like his son would be accused of being, but there is also [substantial](#)¹⁷ evidence to suggest that he would [discriminate](#)¹⁸ against his [tenants](#)¹⁹ based on the colour of their skin.

[00:03:57] [Specifically](#)²⁰, African American [tenants](#) weren't treated well by Fred Trump.

[00:04:03] In 1967 after black [tenants](#) were repeatedly rejected for apartment applications, an investigation [concluded](#)²¹ that of the almost 4000 apartments in Trump Village, one of Fred's many housing [complexes](#)²², just seven were occupied by African-American families.

[00:04:24] Now, Donald Trump might have got the taste for business, and perhaps slightly [questionable](#) business practices, from his father, but there were plenty of maternal influences too, influences from his mother.

¹⁵ open to question, doubtful or suspicious

¹⁶ not honest or legal

¹⁷ significant, of considerable importance

¹⁸ treat them in a different way

¹⁹ the people who paid him rent

²⁰ particularly, in an exact way

²¹ came to the conclusion, showed

²² groups of buildings

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:04:39] **Specifically**, for his style and his **trademark**²³ hair, he has his mother to thank.

[00:04:45] She also had a love for **eccentric**²⁴ hairstyles, and for many years Mary, his mother, **sported**²⁵ a **dramatic**²⁶ orange **swirl**²⁷ **reminiscent**²⁸ of her son's **infamous**²⁹ **hairdo**³⁰.

[00:04:58] She often wore fur coats and extravagant jewellery, and Donald Trump has frequently **acknowledged**³¹ his mother's influence on his personality.

[00:05:08] In his 1987 book 'The Art of the Deal,' he wrote: "Looking back, I realise now that I got some of my sense of **showmanship**³² from my mother."

²³ characteristic

²⁴ strange, unusual

²⁵ wore, showed off

²⁶ impressive, spectacular

²⁷ hair arranged in a twist or spiral

²⁸ reminding, similar to

²⁹ famous for something bad

³⁰ the way his hair is arranged or styled

³¹ recognised the importance of

³² the ability to entertain people

English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #304

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:05:20] Mary's sense of [showmanship](#) would take her son onto every TV screen in America, and then into the White House.

[00:05:28] Anyway, back to young Donald's early life.

[00:05:32] After attending a private boarding school, Trump initially studied at Fordham University in the Bronx but in 1966 he went on to the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

[00:05:46] During his studies he managed to avoid being '[drafted](#)³³' into the Army to fight in the Vietnam war.

[00:05:53] But in 1968, by the time he had finished his studies, Trump was initially declared [eligible](#)³⁴ to fight but, as you may know, he was given another medical [deferral](#)³⁵ - for [bone spurs](#)³⁶, basically hard [bumps](#)³⁷ that develop on the end of bones.

[00:06:13] This was essentially a doctor's letter saying "don't send him to Vietnam, he isn't healthy enough". So, he never went.

³³ selected, taken

³⁴ qualified, suitable

³⁵ excuse for not joining the army

³⁶ hard swellings or lumps that develop on the end of bones

³⁷ swellings, outgrowths

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:06:22] Now, there has been plenty of [controversy](#)³⁸ about this, and it has since been suggested that the doctor who diagnosed his [bone spurs](#) was a [tenant](#)³⁹ in a Trump building and did Fred, Donald's father, a favour.

[00:06:37] Upon his graduation, and safe from the battlefield, Donald began working with his father and soon got into the spirit of the family business.

[00:06:46] By 1971, at the age of just 25, he was made President.

[00:06:53] Not President of the United States, of course, that would have to wait. President of his father's real estate business.

[00:07:00] It seems that the young Donald was quite happy to [go along with](#)⁴⁰ his father's [questionable](#) business practices, and his career would be [plagued](#)⁴¹, filled, with legal difficulties and accusations of [wrongdoing](#)⁴².

[00:07:15] In 1973 Fred and Donald, along with their company, then called Trump Management, were [sued](#)⁴³ by the U.S. Justice Department for violating the 1968 Fair

³⁸ a situation of disagreement and argument

³⁹ a person who paid him rent

⁴⁰ follow

⁴¹ filled (with something bad)

⁴² illegal or dishonest behaviour

⁴³ taken to court

The Life of Donald Trump

Housing Act for [alleged](#)⁴⁴ racial discrimination at their apartment buildings in New York City.

[00:07:34] Both Fred, who was Chairman, and Donald, the company president, were named as defendants in the lawsuit.

[00:07:41] It might not have been for a great reason, but this was Donald's first time in the national [spotlight](#)⁴⁵, and he certainly [made the most of it](#)⁴⁶.

[00:07:51] In response, the Trumps decided to [countersue](#)⁴⁷ the Justice Department for \$100 million, but the matter was eventually settled out of court in an arrangement that meant they didn't have to admit any guilt, any [wrongdoing](#).

[00:08:09] In the late 1970's and 1980's Donald began to go [upmarket](#)⁴⁸, and move the family business from affordable housing into luxury hotels and casinos.

[00:08:22] To do this, however, he needed two things.

[00:08:26] Money, and lots of it.

⁴⁴ not proven

⁴⁵ public attention

⁴⁶ gained every advantage he could from it

⁴⁷ took legal action against as a reaction or response

⁴⁸ towards the more expensive part of the market

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:08:28] And political connections to get purchases and planning permission approved.

[00:08:34] Fred Trump, his father, had both.

[00:08:37] And it's here, really, that the career of Donald Trump [took off](#)⁴⁹.

[00:08:41] It all started, in Trump's own words, with a 'small [loan](#)⁵⁰ of one million dollars' from his father.

[00:08:48] Now, 1 million dollars in the early 1970s is about 7 million dollars now, it's not everyone's definition of a "small [loan](#)".

[00:08:58] And there is plenty of evidence to suggest that Trump was actually [loaned](#)⁵¹ a lot more than he first claimed.

[00:09:06] With this money, he continued buying up properties, and in 1983 opened the famous Trump Tower, an office, retail, and housing [complex](#)⁵² that would become the headquarters of the Trump Organization - and where he famously announced his [candidacy](#) for president after descending the golden escalator in 2015.

⁴⁹ became very successful

⁵⁰ an amount of money that he borrowed with the understanding that he would give it back

⁵¹ given with the understanding that he would give it back

⁵² group of buildings

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:09:28] From here, the developments continued to grow, and of course the Trump name was plastered⁵³ all over every new building.

[00:09:37] Using loans⁵⁴ and political favours, he bought and developed Trump Plaza in 1984, and the 19-story Plaza Hotel in 1988 for \$400 million.

[00:09:50] In 1985 he bought the famous Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach in Florida, the estate that he would later refer to as the Winter White House, an estate where it turned out⁵⁵ he had been keeping classified materials⁵⁶ after handing over the presidency.

[00:10:06] On top of this there were casinos in Atlantic City, an airline, and a smorgasbord⁵⁷ of interlinked business ventures. All, of

[00:10:15] course, named Trump something or other⁵⁸.

[00:10:19] But much like the fortunes of politicians, the world of business is often unpredictable and success can ‘ebb and flow⁵⁹’ with the economy.

⁵³ displayed, shown widely

⁵⁴ amounts of money that he borrowed with the understanding that he would give it back

⁵⁵ was made known that, appeared that

⁵⁶ secret information available only to a limited number of people

⁵⁷ wide range, variety

⁵⁸ something or something else (used when the specific details about something are not important)

⁵⁹ go up or down or vary

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:10:29] '[Ebb and flow](#)', by the way, basically means something that goes up or down or varies.

[00:10:35] Well, when economies across the Western world started to fall into recession in the early 1990s, the many Trump Organization businesses also began to suffer.

[00:10:46] Trump struggled to [keep up](#)⁶⁰ with his debt payments, the money he owed, which is believed to have gone into the billions; although, as we know from his time in the White House, he likes to keep his financial records [close to his chest](#)⁶¹, or top secret.

[00:11:03] After trying to restructure some of his businesses, Trump was forced to [give up](#)⁶² his airline and sell his superyacht called the 'Trump Princess', he was forced to take out new mortgages on all of his businesses, and limit himself to a personal budget.

[00:11:20] But the financial difficulties continued to grow.

[00:11:23] Trump Taj Mahal casino was called into bankruptcy court in 1991 - it was \$3 billion in debt just one year after opening its doors - and two of his other casinos, as well as his Plaza Hotel in New York City, also went bankrupt in 1992.

⁶⁰ deal

⁶¹ top secret

⁶² stop or discontinue the function of

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:11:42] Things got so bad in the 1990's that Trump almost went personally bankrupt, and in 1992, with banks threatening to [foreclose](#)⁶³ on the huge [loans](#) they had given him, Trump agreed to [turn over](#)⁶⁴ many of his remaining assets.

[00:11:59] From that moment on, most major banks were [sceptical](#)⁶⁵ about doing business with the self-styled “very stable genius”, and the Trump brand moved mostly into entertainment ventures.

[00:12:12] As always, Trump's true business value was unclear: estimates of his net worth during this [rocky](#)⁶⁶ period in the 1990's varied from the billions to the negative millions.

[00:12:26] Our next stop is a place where you might have first become aware of Donald Trump: on a TV screen.

[00:12:34] Despite all the business successes and failures, and being relatively well known in New York social circles, nothing made Trump more famous or set him on the road to the White House] more than the reality TV show, The Apprentice.

⁶³ take back property that he had bought with the borrowed money

⁶⁴ give, deliver

⁶⁵ doubting, not trusting

⁶⁶ difficult, full of problems

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:12:50] Not only could he present himself as a highly successful businessman on TV screens across America - never mentioning all the legal cases and bankruptcies, of course - he also made quite a lot of money from the show.

[00:13:03] It is believed that Trump made around \$200 million from The Apprentice.

[00:13:08] But to someone who would claim to be a billionaire, and someone who clearly had a [keen](#)⁶⁷ understanding of the value of a brand, The Apprentice gave him something much more valuable.

[00:13:20] It positioned him in the minds of the American public as a “self-made billionaire”.

[00:13:27] And for a nation with an almost religious [infatuation](#)⁶⁸ with businessmen and making money, this was priceless.

[00:13:36] The 2008 relaunch of the show, The Celebrity Apprentice, brought him into celebrity circles, confirmed his position as a household name in American TV society, and his well known [signature](#)⁶⁹ catch phrase - ‘you’re fired’ - gave him authority in the minds of the American public.

⁶⁷ great, deep

⁶⁸ very strong feeling of attraction

⁶⁹ characteristic that helps to identify him

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:13:55] America had seen him in a carefully controlled business situation on The Apprentice looking [decisive](#)⁷⁰ and authoritative.

[00:14:03] This seed that he planted in the 2000s would come in useful later on.

[00:14:09] But if we put aside the self-made billionaire TV [persona](#)⁷¹ for a moment, Trump certainly had some very big business failures over the years, including, but not limited to, Trump Steaks; a Trump Ice bottled water brand; Trump Vodka; and, of course, the [prestigious](#)⁷² Trump University.

[00:14:30] Trump University, or, The Trump Entrepreneur Initiative, as it became known when authorities declared it [misleading](#)⁷³ and possibly illegal to describe as a university, was an educational service that offered classes in real-estate investment and entrepreneurialism, and the chance to learn from the great real estate [mogul](#)⁷⁴ himself.

[00:14:51] For the small price of up to \$50,000 you too could learn how to become a real estate billionaire, just like Donald Trump.

[00:15:01] It sounded too good to be true. You ´d only needed to pay \$50,000 but you´d learn the secrets to become a billionaire?

⁷⁰ able to make decisions in a confident way

⁷¹ the type of character that was presented

⁷² causing respect and admiration

⁷³ giving the wrong idea or impression

⁷⁴ an important and very rich person

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:15:09] It **turned out** that it might just have been too good to be true.

[00:15:13] In 2011 Trump University was investigated by the New York Attorney General, and in August of 2013, the State of New York filed a \$40 million civil lawsuit **alleging**⁷⁵ that the business had lied to and **defrauded**⁷⁶ its students.

[00:15:32] After denying the **allegations**⁷⁷ for a few years, Trump eventually settled the lawsuits for \$25 million in November 2016, after he had been elected president.

[00:15:46] So, how exactly did Donald go from TV star to president of the free world?

[00:15:53] Was the White House always part of his plan, or was it an **elaborate**⁷⁸ marketing strategy that ‘**got out of hand**⁷⁹’?

[00:16:00] Was he a committed politician, or a **shameless**⁸⁰ opportunist?

⁷⁵ saying that it was illegal without giving proof

⁷⁶ illegally took money from them

⁷⁷ claims or statements that he had done something illegal

⁷⁸ detailed, complicated in design

⁷⁹ became difficult to control

⁸⁰ not feeling shame or bad about it

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:16:04] Well, despite what Trump might have said on the [campaign trail](#)⁸¹ back in 2016, it's believed that he first considered a presidential run, as a Republican, as far back as 1988.

[00:16:18] He was never quite the anti-establishment, political outsider he [makes himself out](#)⁸² to be, and had been involved with politics, on some level, for most of his life.

[00:16:30] In 2000 he was a presidential candidate for the third-party Reform party but he [withdrew](#)⁸³ after winning two [primaries](#)⁸⁴.

[00:16:39] He then unofficially campaigned for a while in 2012, and reportedly also considered a run in 2014.

[00:16:48] It's safe to say that Trump had [flirted](#)⁸⁵ with the idea for many years, but had no strong political ideology or values guiding him and wasn't really interested in things that he couldn't win or profit from.

⁸¹ the series of appearances that he made at different locations as part of his attempt to be elected

⁸² Presents himself

⁸³ removed himself from that position

⁸⁴ first stage elections organised to select the candidates before the main ones

⁸⁵ considered, liked

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:17:03] Although he was a Republican president and is now considered anything from moderately to extremely right-wing, Trump's political donations over the years make for very interesting reading.

[00:17:16] [Specifically](#), until 2010, he had donated more to the Democrats than he had to the Republican party.

[00:17:25] And his official party [affiliation](#)⁸⁶ has also changed over the years.

[00:17:30] He initially registered as a Republican back in 1987, switched to the Reform Party for that brief presidential run in 2000, was a Democrat between 2001 and 2009, and then finally switched back to the Republicans in 2009.

[00:17:49] In fact, and you might find this very surprising, in 2008 he actually [endorsed](#)⁸⁷ Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primaries, but then supported the Republican John McCain for president.

[00:18:04] So, back to his path to the presidency.

[00:18:07] In February 2011 Trump appeared at the Conservative Political Action Conference, and although his speech there is believed by some to have [ignited](#)⁸⁸ his career within the Republican Party, many in the media thought his appearances were

⁸⁶ connections, relations

⁸⁷ supported publicly

⁸⁸ caused to start, triggered

The Life of Donald Trump

more promotional than political, and that, in reality, the whole thing was a marketing [ploy](#)⁸⁹, a marketing idea, for The Apprentice.

[00:18:33] Indeed, there's real speculation among journalists and historians that Trump's presidential run in 2016 also began as an [attention-seeking](#)⁹⁰ [scheme](#)⁹¹ to promote his struggling business [ventures](#)⁹².

[00:18:47] As the former Fox News CEO and close friend of Trump, Roger Ailes, once said, "if you want a career in television, first run for president."

[00:18:58] And many people believe that that's exactly what Trump wanted to do: run for President, lose the election but receive hundreds of millions of dollars worth of free publicity, then launch a new news network or use the increased [fame](#)⁹³ as a marketing technique for his businesses.

[00:19:17] Even a week before the election, reportedly, Trump and his team were sure he would lose.

[00:19:23] And he was OK with that.

⁸⁹ idea, move

⁹⁰ planned to draw attention

⁹¹ organised plan

⁹² activities that involved risk

⁹³ the state of being known

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:19:25] According to one journalist, Trump told Ailes that the campaign had been "bigger than I ever dreamed of. I don't think about losing, because it isn't losing. We've totally won."

[00:19:35] So, what happened when he actually won?

[00:19:40] Well, it was a shock, to say the least.

[00:19:43] Donald Trump Jr. is reported to have said that his father "looked as if he had seen a ghost. Melania was in tears - and not tears of joy."

[00:19:53] After winning the most unlikely of political [upsets](#)⁹⁴, there were reports that Trump didn't even want to live in the White House, and that he was [unimpressed](#)⁹⁵ with the [decor](#)⁹⁶, and that he struggled to live without the [maids](#)⁹⁷ and [butlers](#)⁹⁸ that he had long enjoyed in his collection of private residences and hotels.

[00:20:11] So, how did Donald Trump, a supposedly successful businessman with a [shady track record](#)⁹⁹ of investments and legal challenges, how did he win the presidency and become the most powerful man in the world?

⁹⁴ unexpected results

⁹⁵ not impressed by or excited about it

⁹⁶ the colour, style and arrangements of it

⁹⁷ women who worked as servants in hotels

⁹⁸ male servants in a house

⁹⁹ achievements or performance

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:20:25] Well, clearly tens of thousands of hours of TV and millions of words have been written analysing how and why this happened.

[00:20:34] So I only want to make one point here, and it's that the fact that he was the clear **outsider**¹⁰⁰, and that he wasn't expected to win, meant that his campaign became relatively pressure-free.

[00:20:47] This allowed him to **paint himself as**¹⁰¹ a political **underdog**¹⁰², someone thought to have little or no chance of winning anything.

[00:20:56] **Portraying**¹⁰³ himself as an outsider against the establishment candidate and former First Lady Hilary Clinton, Trump was pretty much free to say and do whatever he liked.

[00:21:08] This was, as I'm sure you'll remember, often done in very **provocative**¹⁰⁴, offensive, and politically incorrect language.

[00:21:16] He **bragged**¹⁰⁵ about his wealth, claiming it would free him from the influence of the big political donors that dominated Washington, and promised to '**drain the**

¹⁰⁰ one with little chance of success

¹⁰¹ present himself as

¹⁰² a competitor thought to have little chance of winning

¹⁰³ presenting, describing

¹⁰⁴ causing strong reactions, annoying

¹⁰⁵ spoke too proudly about it

The Life of Donald Trump

[swamp¹⁰⁶](#) in Washington DC. Desperate to be seen as rich and powerful, he talked endlessly about his business empire, his bank balance and even his golden toilet.

[00:21:38] This kind of [braggadocious¹⁰⁷](#) behaviour clearly [resonated¹⁰⁸](#), and he [portrayed¹⁰⁹](#) himself as a tough self-made billionaire businessman who would be able to have the same success in government as he had had in the business world.

[00:21:53] So by a combination of luck, [opportunism¹¹⁰](#), and the unpopularity of his opponent, on November 9th of 2016, Donald Trump won the US presidential election in one of the greatest political [upsets](#) of all time.

[00:22:08] His decisions in office [enraged¹¹¹](#) many, delighted many others, and he [tore¹¹²](#) [up¹¹²](#) the rule book in anything and everything from climate change to trade and foreign policy.

[00:22:20] It made him the most famous and recognisable face in the world, and there wasn't a day when he wasn't all over cable news.

¹⁰⁶ remove corrupt or dishonest people and practices

¹⁰⁷ showing that he was too proud, arrogant

¹⁰⁸ was met with agreement

¹⁰⁹ presented, described

¹¹⁰ behaviour in which he used every situation to get an advantage

¹¹¹ made them very angry

¹¹² ripped or cut to pieces

The Life of Donald Trump

[00:22:29] Of course, The Trump Show might have [quietened down](#)¹¹³, but it is far from the end of the series.

[00:22:36] There are [rumours](#)¹¹⁴ of another presidential run in 2024, when Donald Trump will be 78 years old.

[00:22:44] If this does happen, as Trump knows all too well, it will be “must watch TV”.

[00:22:51] OK then, that is it for today’s episode on Donald Trump, a reality TV star and businessman with a [questionable](#) legal [track record](#) that went on to win the presidency and [shift](#)¹¹⁵ the direction of not only American but world history.

[00:23:07] As always, I would love to know what you thought about this episode.

[00:23:11] Where does Trump [rank](#)¹¹⁶ among US presidents?

[00:23:14] Do you think he really wanted to become president?

[00:23:17] And have we seen the last of Donald Trump, or is this just the start?

[00:23:22] I would love to know, so let’s get this discussion started.

¹¹³ become not so active

¹¹⁴ information that is shared among people and might be true

¹¹⁵ cause it to change

¹¹⁶ find his place in the list of

English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #304
The Life of Donald Trump

[00:23:26] You can head right into our community forum, which is at
community.leonardoenglish.com and get chatting away to other curious minds.

[00:23:34] You've been listening to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo
English.

[00:23:38] I'm Alastair Budge, you stay safe, and I'll catch you in the next episode.

[END OF EPISODE]

Key vocabulary

Word	Definition
Controversial	causing disagreement or discussion
Scandals	actions or events that caused public shock or anger
Midtown	the central part of a city, between the downtown and uptown areas
Skyscraper	very tall modern building
Midsection	the middle part of his body
Shock	a feeling of strong surprise
Cheesy	broad but not honest or true (for a smile)
Grin	smile
Candidacy	the fact of entering the election
Altered	changed
Brash	showing too much confidence in a rude way
Outspoken	expressing strong opinions openly

The Life of Donald Trump

Out of the goodness of his heart	because he was kind or selfless
Raised eyebrows	caused disapproval or suspicion
Questionable	open to question, doubtful or suspicious
Shady	not honest or legal
Substantial	significant, of considerable importance
Discriminate	treat them in a different way
Tenants	the people who paid him rent
Specifically	particularly, in an exact way
Concluded	came to the conclusion, showed
Complexes	groups of buildings
Trademark	characteristic
Eccentric	strange, unusual
Sported	wore, showed off
Dramatic	impressive, spectacular
Swirl	hair arranged in a twist or spiral

The Life of Donald Trump

Reminiscent	reminding, similar to
Infamous	famous for something bad
Hairdo	the way his hair is arranged or styled
Acknowledged	recognised the importance of
Showmanship	the ability to entertain people
Drafted	selected, taken
Eligible	qualified, suitable
Deferral	excuse for not joining the army
Bone spurs	hard swellings or lumps that develop on the end of bones
Bumps	swellings, outgrowths
Controversy	a situation of disagreement and argument
Tenant	a person who paid him rent
Go along with	follow
Plagued	filled (with something bad)
Wrongdoing	illegal or dishonest behaviour

The Life of Donald Trump

Sued	taken to court
Alleged	not proven
Spotlight	public attention
Made the most of it	gained every advantage he could from it
Countersue	took legal action against as a reaction or response
Upmarket	towards the more expensive part of the market
Took off	became very successful
Loan	an amount of money that he borrowed with the understanding that he would give it back
Loaned	given with the understanding that he would give it back
Complex	group of buildings
Plastered	displayed, shown widely
Loans	amounts of money that he borrowed with the understanding that he would give it back
Turned out	was made known that, appeared that
Classified materials	secret information available only to a limited number of people

The Life of Donald Trump

Smorgasbord	wide range, variety
Something or other	something or something else (used when the specific details about something are not important)
Ebb and flow	go up or down or vary
Keep up	deal
Close to his chest	top secret
Give up	stop or discontinue the function of
Foreclose	take back property that he had bought with the borrowed money
Turn over	give, deliver
Sceptical	doubting, not trusting
Rocky	difficult, full of problems
Keen	great, deep
Infatuation	very strong feeling of attraction
Signature	characteristic that helps to identify him
Decisive	able to make decisions in a confident way
Persona	the type of character that was presented

The Life of Donald Trump

Prestigious	causing respect and admiration
Misleading	giving the wrong idea or impression
Mogul	an important and very rich person
Alleging	saying that it was illegal without giving proof
Defrauded	illegally took money from them
Allegations	claims or statements that he had done something illegal
Elaborate	detailed, complicated in design
Got out of hand	became difficult to control
Shameless	not feeling shame or bad about it
Campaign trail	the series of appearances that he made at different locations as part of his attempt to be elected
Makes himself out	presents himself
Withdrew	removed himself from that position
Primaries	first stage elections organised to select the candidates before the main ones
Flirted	considered, liked

The Life of Donald Trump

Affiliation	connections, relations
Endorsed	supported publicly
Ignited	caused to start, triggered
Ploy	idea, move
Attention-seeking	planned to draw attention
Scheme	organised plan
Ventures	activities that involved risk
Fame	the state of being known
Upsets	unexpected results
Unimpressed	not impressed by or excited about it
Decor	the colour, style and arrangements of it
Maids	women who worked as servants in hotels
Butlers	male servants in a house
Track record	achievements or performance
Outsider	one with little chance of success

The Life of Donald Trump

Paint himself as	present himself as
Underdog	a competitor thought to have little chance of winning
Portraying	presenting, describing
Provocative	causing strong reactions, annoying
Bragged	spoke too proudly about it
Drain the swamp	remove corrupt or dishonest people and practices
Braggadocious	showing that he was too proud, arrogant
Resonated	was met with agreement
Portrayed	presented, described
Opportunism	behaviour in which he used every situation to get an advantage
Enraged	made them very angry
Tore up	ripped or cut to pieces
Quietened down	become not so active
Rumours	information that is shared among people and might be true
Shift	cause it to change

English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #304
The Life of Donald Trump

Rank

find his place in the list of

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