

## Unit 8:

# HOMAGE TO A LEGEND

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### WARM-UP ACTIVITY

1. What is your association with the word «legend»?
2. Who is a living legend?
3. Is there a legend in this time of ours?
4. How hard is to become a legend?
5. What have people we consider legends done to earn this reputation?
6. Who is a legend for you? Why?

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Dusk always comes swiftly to the California desert. At Cholame the sun drops like a stone behind the cashmere hills. It floods the valley with blinding light, dazzling any driver zipping along the narrow, arrow-straight road over the Polonio Pass down to a junction by a cafe.

At dusk on September 30, 1955, a 23-year-old film actor called James Dean was making that journey, driving his sleek, silver Porsche Spider he had just bought. Just as he hit the Y junction on the valley floor, a Ford saloon came lumbering from the east, loomed out of the blinding sunset and turned across his path.

The crash was inevitable. Dean's tiny aluminum car was torn open like a tin can. By the time it came to rest against a telegraph pole, he was dead.

Three days later his most famous film, «Rebel Without a Cause», was released and a legend was born. The film showed that he had got ahead of many other actors. He was doomed to drive his car to immortality.

Every year on the anniversary of that fatal crash, James Dean's fans get together at the very spot where and when he died. There will be hundreds of them this year on yet another anniversary, James Dean is more popular today than ever. The place where he died and the small town of Fairmount, Indiana, where he grew up, have become tourist attractions.

About 60.000 people go to Fairmount for the three-day James Dean Festival in September. They see the farm where he grew up, his grave, covered with 100 lipstick kisses, and a museum filled with almost everything he ever owned or touched.

The Festival takes over the little, one-street farmers' town. There is a vintage car run, fifties dances, film screening – a huge celebration of the man who became famous, but who is known here as Jim, the good old boy-next-door.

## Stevanovich R.I.

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In California, the gathering is just the climax of a day spent as a James Dean, tourist. The fans get to his death site by following, with scrupulously close attention to detail, the whole of his last day's journey from Los Angeles. They travel in convoy, many of them in fifties cars and usually at least one in a replica of Jimmy's Porsche.

They stop at a place for a glass of milk just as he did, and again on the highway where a patrolman pulled Jimmy over for doing 65 in a 45-mile zone. At Blackwell's Comer they gather to mark the last place on earth that James Dean stood.

The spot where he died, 26 miles down the road is now marked by a memorial. The memorial is not pretty but is impressive. It was built in 1983 by a fan, a Japanese businessman who spent \$ 200.000 on it because he said he found it sad that no American had bothered to mark the spot. Here the fans wait as the seconds tick by to the fatal time: 5.45 pm. In the meantime they can read a slogan someone had scratched on the memorial. It is a saying James Dean was fond of: «Live fast, die young ...».

Back at Fairmount, it is not the death-defying rebel that they revere, but the hometown boy. The museum is a homely memorial. His family, friends and contemporaries have turned out their cupboards and photo albums to create an incredibly detailed record of his life. Everything from his baby clothes to his Bible is here, from his address book to the Triumph motorbike he rode as a teenager. The collection is looked after by Jim's great friend who shows the fans various exhibits. There is also a cup and saucer that is associated with a sad story from his early days: When Jimmy was nine his mother died of cancer while the family was temporarily living in California. His father couldn't cope with bringing up the boy alone and sent him back to Fairmount to live with his aunt and uncle. His mother's body went on the train with him. When Jimmy asked for something that would be a reminder of that terrible trip, he was given a simple cup and saucer, inscribed with the name of the train: The Challenger.

The home that James Dean came to is still there. Today his cousin lives there. He grew up with Jimmy and is therefore someone the fans are desperate to meet. He welcomes them to the farm and shows them the barn where Jimmy left his hand and foot prints in wet cement. When he says «Jimmy' wasn't a rebel, he wasn't a speed freak and he didn't have a death wish. He was just a decent, honest, home-loving boy». They listen to him nodding but choose not to believe a word he says.

(adapted from The Mail on Sunday, July 2)

## VOCABULARY

*ascendant* – висхідний, панівний

*bind* – зв'язувати, перев'язувати

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*boarding school* – школа-інтернат  
*binding* – сліпучий  
*boast* – хвастати  
*churn* – відчувати нудоту  
*cope with* – впоратися з чимось  
*compassionate* – жалісливий, співчутливий  
*crawl* – повзти, тягнутися  
*daze* – дивувати, приголомшувати  
*decent* – порядний  
*desert* – пустеля, пустельний  
*death-defying rebel* – бунтівник, що кидає виклик смерті  
*doom* – гибель, прирікати на щось  
*get ahead of others* – випереджати інших  
*heir* – спадкоємець  
*healer* – зцілювати  
*leper* – прокажений  
*loom* – неясно вимальовуватися  
*lumbering* – 1. рухатися важко, незграбно; 2. захащувати  
*mature* – дозрівати, зрілий  
*nod* – 1. кивати головою; 2. дрімати  
*offset* – компенсувати, відшкодувати  
*pull a car over* – зупинити автомобіль біля дороги  
*pervasive* – всеохоплюючий  
*screen* – 1. прикривати, укриття; 2. екран  
*scrupulous* – скрупульозний, делікатний  
*sibling* – брат чи сестра  
*the sun drops like a stone* – сонце швидко сідає  
*speed freak* – любитель швидкої їзди  
*sleek* – гладкий, сяючий  
*tick* – цокати (про годинник)  
*vintage car* – автомобіль старої марки  
*zip* – спішити

### PHRASES TO REMEMBER

To pull a car over	
To turn across the path	
To get ahead of others	
The sun drops like a stone	
A speed freak	
To get together	
Vintage car	
To do 65	

Can you think of similar phrases in your language?

**GRAMMAR NOTES**

**PARTICIPLES**

They are verb forms that are formed in several different ways. *The present participle* is the most frequently used type of participle and you learnt it soon after you began learning English. It was then used to form continuous tenses, but it can also be an adjective:

*People **are waiting** to see the rock star. (The present continuous tense)*

*There are many people **waiting** to see the rock star in the airport building.*

This form of the present participle is used in an adjectival clause – giving details about noun «people». This is the usage for which we usually say that it shortens the sentence:

*There are many people in the airport building. They are waiting to see the rock star.*

The participle can also have the role of adjectives and be used in adjectival clauses. Or they can be adjectives themselves for example like «boring, bored, interesting, interested» and many more.

**Here are some examples from the lesson:**

*The sunset floods the valley with **blinding light, dazzling** any driver **zipping** along the narrow arrow-straight road.*

*At dusk on September 30, 1955, a 23-year-old film actor **called** James Dean was making that journey, **driving** his sleek, silver Porsche Spider he had just bought.*

*A Ford saloon came **lumbering** from the east, loomed out of the **blinding** sunset and turned across his path.*

*They listen to him **nodding** but choose not to believe a word he says.*

**Decide how each participle is used: to shorten the sentence, as an adjective or adverbially**

Another commonly used form is *the past participle*. It can also be used to shorten a sentence and it can have an active or passive form, which depends on the kind of verb in question:

*There is a memorial **built** by a Japanese businessman, (simple past participle with passive meaning)*

*I enjoyed the performance **held** at the New Theatre last night.*

*Have you visited the exhibition **being held** in the town hall yet? (continuous form of the past participle)*

The third type of the participle is *the perfect participle*, the form of which is rather like that of perfect tenses. It is not so often used in colloquial English, but in its written form and replaces some adverbial clauses, mostly of time and reason:

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**Having done** their homework, the girls went out for a walk. (The perfect participle active used as a temporal clause)

All the available time **having been spent** on trying to find a better-paid job, he had to accept whatever work was offered to him. (The perfect participle passive used as the adverbial clause of reason)

**A common usage of participles is with prepositions or conjunctions:**

**After visiting** the old people's home, I always feel depressed.

**Once cooked** well, the steak must be consumed before it gets cold.

**Once interrupted**, she will not be able to continue her monologue.

**On being brought** to the big boss's office, he fainted.

**After having questioned** some of the staff, he realized that the burglar must have had some inside assistance.

### Phrasal Verbs

**Study various meanings of these phrasal / prepositional verbs:**

Drive	at	away	back	off	out
Try to say, mean	*				
Force smb to leave		*			
Force to withdraw			*		
Leave in a car; make smb leave				*	
Force smb to leave or disappear					*

**Decide if the bold phrases are phrasal verbs or not (if not, say what they are)**

What are you **driving at**?

We shall never know what the boss **was driving at** the meeting when he mentioned our bad sales results.

The foreigner couldn't understand a word of their language, but their laughter **drove him away**.

We didn't mean to **drive you away** with our comments!

You **drove us into a corner** and we had to say what there was to say!

She'll be able to manage with this language course and you shouldn't **drive her back** to a lower course.

The police **drove** the demonstrators **back** to where they had started from.

They **drove off** in their new car.

He's such a nuisance! We must **drive him off** when he comes next time during office hours!

If they are spies, we shall **drive them off**.

Say that again, and you will **drive me out** of the party!

I simply can't stand loud noise and this loud music **drove me out**.

Nothing can **drive a wedge between us**.

**EXERCISES**

**I. Make questions for the following answers:**

Model 1: What is this text about?

It is about James Dean.

1. It is about James Dean.
2. They called him Jimmy.
3. He died when he was 23.
4. Three days after he died.
5. «Rebel Without a Cause».
6. His mother died when he was nine.
7. With his aunt and uncle on a farm in Fairmount.
8. His cousin still lives on the farm.

**II. Decide if the statements are true or false and correct the false ones**

1. James Dean was killed in a car accident ..... T/F
2. The accident happened because something was wrong with his car ..... T/F
3. The car crash occurred at daybreak ..... T/F
4. If the other car hadn't been driving fast, the accident wouldn't have happened ..... T/F
5. People still commemorate the anniversary of Jimmy's death ..... T/F
6. There is a memorial in Fairmount that was built by a Japanese fan ..... T/F
7. There is a memorial in Fairmount where all James Dean's belongings are exhibited ..... T/F
8. Tire farm where Jimmy grew up no longer exists ..... T/F

**III. Match the left-hand parts of sentences with their right hand paragraphs:**

1. The sun drops like a stone behind the hills.	a. The sun was setting when a car appeared out of the dazzling light.
2. Dusk always comes swiftly to the California desert.	b. It is unbelievable how his family and friends made a presentation of his life with so many details.
3. A car loomed out of the blinding sunset.	c. The sun sets in a matter of seconds behind the hills.
4. He was doomed to die in a car crash.	d. It always becomes dark in no time in California desert.
5. His family and friends created an incredibly detailed record of his life.	e. It was his destiny to die in a car accident.

**IV. Find in the text and write down those phrases that mean the following and write them down:**

- to drive at the speed of 65 miles an hour .....
- a person who loves speed .....
- the sun sets fast and suddenly .....
- to block the passage .....
- to make the car stop by the side of the road .....
- an old-time car .....
- driving fast alone the road .....

**V. There are some idiomatic phrases and phrasal verbs with drive in this text. Find among the explanations given below those that match their meaning.**

I wonder what people are **driving at** (1) when they say James Dean was a rebel! To me he has always seemed to be a home-loving young man. He always behaved well and never **drove away** (2) anyone with any foul words. Jimmy was unlucky enough to have to live with his aunt and uncle instead of his parents. But it was the only option for his father: after his mother's death he was **driven into a corner** (3) and had no other choice. His mother's death could have **driven him to despair** (4), but he managed to make a life for himself after all. He was on good terms with all his relatives and especially with one of his cousins: nothing could **drive a wedge between** (5) them. Even now so many years after Jimmy's death, when fans or tourists come to the Fairmount farm, his cousin never **drives away** (6) any of them. He always takes them about the farm to show them the barn and other places where Jimmy spent his childhood with him.

1. a. trying to say	b. getting to
2. a. drove away in his car	b. sent away
3. a. taken to the corner	b. forced to do so
4. a. made him desperate	b. taken him to a place where people usually go when they are sad
5. a. bring them closer	b. separate them and cause disharmony
6. a. takes them away in his car	b. b. forces them to leave

**VI. Practicing phrasal verbs**

**A. Fill in the gaps with suitable particles:**

*at; away; back; off; out*

1. I couldn't stand listening to so much gossip at your party! It almost drove me \_\_\_\_!
2. What are you driving \_\_\_\_? There wasn't a word of gossip at all! It was all true!

3. Percy and Mary got upset when they realized what time it was and they just said goodbye and drove \_\_\_\_ .
4. If you hadn't come to that meeting on time you would automatically have been driven \_\_\_\_\_ to your previous position.
5. It was too late and the little boy wanted to stay with the guests, but his parents drove him \_\_\_\_\_ and sent him to bed.

**B. Replace the bold phrases in the text with suitable expressions or phrasal verbs**

*drive a wedge; drive out; drive to despair; drive out of one's mind; drive off; drive in/into; drive into a corner*

The wall was so hard that my room mate Paul couldn't **knock** a nail into it. He tried several times and then asked me to bring Peter to help with his drill. I felt like watching a film on TV, but I didn't want that silly thing to **cause disharmony** between the two of us. So **I left in my car** for the block where Peter lived. I was lucky to find Peter at home and willing to come over and help. Yet, when he used his drill, he damaged the wall so badly that the next door neighbours immediately complained. All three of us **were forced to the point of desperation**. There was nothing we could do to make things better that moment. Neither of us was to blame, but the accident **forced Paul into a position from which it was difficult to say anything**. The worst thing that could happen to us, we thought, was that the landlady could **make us leave the flat**. We hoped that the accident would not **make her very agitated and upset**. We immediately apologized as politely as we could and promised to put things back in order in no time.

**C. Find the expressions in the text of the lesson that mean the following and write them down**

- to meet socially .....
- to make progress beyond others .....

**VII. Read the text first and then arrange the scrambled paragraphs in a logical order**

At the age of 9 Diana was taken to a boarding school. She hoped to become a ballerina, but as a teenager she grew too tall to be a ballerina. Her friends remember her as high-spirited, athletic and uncommonly compassionate, cheerfully volunteering at a mental hospital, where she crawled on the floor with the patients. She couldn't boast of a good academic record but her good nature helped her offset her poor student's records. When she was 16 she had to take her «O» levels, standardized tests for British students, but she failed them. She left school in England and spent a semester at a Swiss school where she improved her skiing and her French.

In 1979 her parents set her up in a London flat, which she shared with three other young women. She worked as a part-time nanny, a house

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cleaner and a part-time member of the staff of a kindergarten. This was probably a life very much like that of Cinderella, but she managed not to complain. At the age of 18 she was still very much a young girl, who retained not only her child's sense of fun but her innocence too. She loved animals: horses, ponies, rabbits, cats and most of all her guinea pig.

It was in 1967 when the distance between Diana and her parents grew even wider and the gap became more difficult to bridge. Her parents separated and divorced. Soon the children began shuffling between their parents' houses. It was a hard time for Diana who couldn't take sides. Although they had a certain amount of comfort around themselves, such as a swimming pool and a tennis court, Diana and her siblings were not comfortable at all. They were the only children at their school with divorced parents.

From the moment Diana appeared on the scene, she seemed the answer to the monarchy's prayers. England immediately took to her. She soon proved to have not just surface beauty but an amount of inner qualities that people adored. Young and nervous, she found herself in the spotlight, playing the game with little help from her new family. She had either to sink or to swim and she decided she was going to swim. She learned the job fast and began to play by her own rules.

The twentieth century can boast of a number of legends. One of them was Lady Diana, often called Lady Di, who lived too short a life that can be considered partly hard and partly glamorous.

She met her Prince when she was still very young, just like Cinderella. Like her mother, Diana was married very young to a man who was 12 years older than herself and quickly became disappointed. It was a storybook romance – a fresh young girl who found her prince, a nation that found its princess. After a brief courtship, a glorious wedding at St. Paul's Cathedral was the culmination of all their hopes.

Diana Frances Spencer was born in 1961 on the Norfolk estate of Earl Spencer. Beside Diana there were two elder sisters and a younger brother, Charles. They lived as if it were the 20s although it was the time of hippies and the Beatles. The children had an upbringing out of a different age and a distant way of living from their parents.

As she matured in her royal role, her confidence grew. It helped that the public saw only her penetrating blue eyes and winning smile and never her quivering hands and churning stomach.

The birth of her sons encouraged her. She felt she had fulfilled her royal duty and genuinely enjoyed raising the heirs to the throne. She was always there for her sons to count on her and on her silent back up.

Among her last assignments was a trip to Bosnia in support of the land-mine ban. People were so impressed with how hard the Princess was

willing to work to help others. But her visit to Bosnia was overshadowed by reports of her romance with Dodi Fayed. It was Dodi who was by her side in possibly the happiest moments of her life when it was so suddenly and violently brought to an end.

She was actually the queen of style in whatever she was doing and wherever she appeared. Over the years she grew sleeker and cheer to become the most watched woman and an inspiration to designers around the world.

Having suffered much rejection in her young days by her own family, she was determined to make her marriage work. But when her marriage began to fail, Diana's causes became a lifeline. With her inner spirit which shined forth in spite of the pervasive unhappiness about her, she was a healer for many. Yet, she couldn't find anything to heal her unhappiness. Her emotional health deteriorated although she had affairs of her own while Charles had his. The divorce was inevitable. After her divorce the only bright spots in her life were her sons and the causes she wanted to support all her life.

Hardly any other citizen of the world could boast of such profound humanity as Diana could. With her courage and compassion she could raise extraordinary sums for charities. The power of Diana's touch and presence was evident to those who witnessed her quiet moments with lepers, AIDS patients, drug addicts, the homeless and land-mine victims.

### **VIII. Translate from English into Ukrainian:**

#### **DIANA AWARDS TO BECOME PERMANENT**

Awards to recognize extra-special children – set up in the wake of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales are to become a permanent feature of British life. Education and Employment Secretary David Blankett confirmed the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award would become permanent at a presentation ceremony for five children. The scheme recognizes pupils for improving the lives of others, their communities or for showing outstanding personal development in difficult circumstances. Schools can nominate one pupil or a group of up to six in each academic year. Eighty secondary school pupils received the award in its first year. Mr Blankett praised the awards, run by the national charity Education Extra saying: «It's good to see so many young people making a positive contribution, they're the example to us all. What this award brings home is that other achievements can be just as valuable as academic results».

### **IX. Translate from Ukrainian into English:**

Найбільший духовий оркестр у світі, до складу якого входять 10 000 музикантів, нещодавно виступив у столиці Шотландії, Единбурзі.

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Трубачі і барабанщики з усього світу, у тому числі США, Іспанії, Аляски, Австралії і Гонконгу грали, організували процесію з музикою та зібрали 500 000 фунтів стерлінгів на допомогу онкологічному центру ім. Марії Кюрі у Шотландії.