

Vocabulary: John Lennon text

Born in Liverpool in 1940, John Lennon is one of the most iconic names even today in the music industry. At the age of 17, he went to the Liverpool College of Art, where he was a student until 1959. His first wife, Cynthia, was also a student there. They were married from 1962 to their divorce five years later. During this period, John's son, Julian, was born. Cynthia said that their divorce was because of John's problems with LSD and his increasing disinterest with her. It was in 1960 that John formed The Beatles with his friend Paul McCartney. Lennon was with the group until 1970. The group was one of the most successful in music history; their second song, *Please Please Me*, was a huge success: it was number one for ten weeks. In total seventeen of the group's songs were number one hits and all of their albums were also number one in the album charts.

In his personal life, by 1969, there was another woman in John's life: Yoko Ono. He married her in the same year and the couple were together until John's death in 1980. Unfortunately, Ono's presence was a source of tension in the group and the following year was the end of the Beatles.

The seventies was a period of political activism and alcoholism for Lennon, but by 1980 he was ready for a comeback with a new album, *Double Fantasy*; just three weeks after its release, Lennon was shot in front of his New York apartment by Mark Chapman, a Lennon fan who was mentally unstable.

Ironically, Lennon's last hit was called 'Starting over'.

Note how we say years in English: (1940 = nineteen forty; 1905 = nineteen oh five)