

Weekly English Practice



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English Coaching Projects
weeklyenglishpractice.wordpress.com

James Blunt finds his own song annoying

The successful singer finally decided to admit the truth about 'You're Beautiful'

topped charts: was at the top of lists

leading: causing

over-emotional: too emotional

appeal: be attractive

dudes: (colloquial) men

slow jams: slow, romantic songs

quit: leave, abandon, give up

career: profession

former: ex- (previously)

come under fire: to be heavily criticized

posh: upper class, elegant

upbringing: how your parents treat/instruct you in childhood

widely: by a lot of people, in a lot of places

mocked: imitated, laughed at, criticized

The track, which **featured** on the singer-songwriter's 2004 bestselling debut album Back to Bedlam, **topped**

charts in ten countries, sold more than four million copies around the

world, received a Grammy nomination and won an Ivor Novello award.

But Blunt has at last admitted that it was "force-fed down people's throats", **leading** music fans to think of him as an "insanely serious person" and get bored, damaging his reputation.

The accompanying music video for "You're Beautiful", in which Blunt appears sad, shirtless and shoeless in the snow, only made things worse.

"I have a couple of **over-emotional miserable** songs that I'm known for, but I think it's turned that corner now," he told Hello! magazine, adding that his music was first marketed to **appeal** to "women during *Desperate Housewives* commercials" when "**dudes** also love **slow jams** about lost loves and things being beautiful".

Here are some of the lyrics:

My life is brilliant.

My love is pure.

I saw an angel.

Of that I'm sure.

She smiled at me on the subway.

She was with another man.

*But I won't lose no sleep on that,
'Cause I've got a plan.*

*You're beautiful. You're beautiful.
You're beautiful, it's true.*

*I saw your face in a crowded place,
And I don't know what to do,
'Cause I'll never be with you*

...

Blunt temporarily **quit** the music business in 2012 because he wanted to "take more time for himself", stop writing songs and "chill out" in Ibiza, before returning to resume his **career** with last year's Moon Landing.

The 40-year-old **former** Harrow student and NATO soldier had **come under fire** for his "**posh**" upbringing and was **widely mocked** on social media.

This story was adapted from:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/news/james-blunt-finally-admits-the-truth-youre-beautiful-is-annoying-9808039.html>

Go to page 2 to see some funny 'tweets' about James Blunt



Photos © Robert Hextall

Similar Interests

Same Old

Dr. Sax

The Allnighters

The Bröntes

The Soulbreaker Company

Coigreach Aig Baile

Have you ever seen any of these groups from Vitoria-Gasteiz play live? Do you know any other groups?

Do you know anyone who plays in a group?

Would you like to?

Let's chat!

- Have you heard James Blunt's famous song?
- What do you think of it?
- What about the music video?
- What do you think are the consequences of making a public apology like this?
- Why do you think people dislike Blunt's "poshness"?
- Have you ever sung a song in public?



“iLook, iThink, iSpeak” Express yourself better!

Pronunciation practice

How do you say these verbs...
(a) in the *infinitive*?
(b) in the past?

- decide
- feature
- top
- receive
- admit
- damage
- appear
- turn
- add
- market
- appeal
- love
- smile
- want
- stop
- return
- mock

Listen to the audio file.

How is '-ed' usually pronounced?

How is '-ed' pronounced in these five?

Ask your coach for an explanation!

Andy Neil @andyneil_ Follow
Just read that James Blunt has quit the music industry. What an utterly outstanding day for the human race.
1:56 PM - 22 Oct 2012
14 RETWEETS

Phil Stockwell @PhilJSto Follow
James Blunt has quit music. Didn't know he'd started.
2:11 PM - 22 Oct 2012
4 RETWEETS 3 FAVORITES

Colin Sharkey @colinsharkey Follow
James Blunt's announced he's no longer making music. I could have told him that 10 years ago
2:13 PM - 22 Oct 2012
4 RETWEETS



Let's debate!

Music should be **FREE** to download, and musicians should make their money from **concerts**.

First... answer these questions:

- Do you spend money on mp3s?
- When did you last buy a CD?

How often do you pay to see live music?

Second... read the statement above.

- List some reasons for the statement.
- List some reasons against the statement.

Discuss the subject, using your lists to help you.

Decide if you agree with the statement or not.

Write it all in an email to your ECP coach...

(...and record your voice!).