



## PROFILE

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Actor Michael J. Fox received the shock of his life at the height of his career. The upsetting news initiated a battle he could never have anticipated.]

Michael's life began in 1961 in Alberta, Canada. One of five siblings, he was always small, which led to problems at school. He was constantly bullied but learned to use humor to calm situations — a skill that would serve him well in later years.]

Not until Michael joined his school drama club did he begin to fit in. Then at 15, he made his professional acting debut in a Canadian TV series. A couple of years later his parents let him quit school and move to Los Angeles to become an actor. Over the next few years, he endured plenty of auditions and rejections. But Michael hit pay dirt when he won the role of Alex P. Keaton in *Family Ties*, which became a top-ranked TV comedy. Next up was a starring role in *Back to the Future* — the award-winning film that would catapult the young actor to widespread fame. While in his 20s, Fox completed seven seasons of *Family Ties*, made 10 movies and married actress Tracy Pollan.

## MICHAEL J. FOX

How one of the biggest stars of the 1980s manages a life-changing disease

by Pamela Osment / PAGE DESIGN BY MICHAEL TSE

## Parkinson's Awareness Month

Every April is Parkinson's Awareness Month. This month is focused on an important part of PD awareness: educating people on the many signs that impact daily life and how to address them. Also included is how to help people recognize the early signs that can lead to an earlier diagnosis and overall better quality of life.



## Usage Tip

could never have p.p. 助動詞 could + have p.p. 為對過去事件的推測，表「過去可能有做了某事」。在此結構中加上 never，則帶出否定推測，並隱含強烈情緒，表「過去不可能有做到某事」。因此透過本句，作者強烈推測這場與病魔的戰役，是 Michael 過去不可能有料想到的。例句：She could never have known the impact her words would have on me.

## Talk About It

- Have you ever faced rejection? Explain.
- When you read about the way Fox is handling his disease, what adjectives come to mind?

## Key Points

Unscramble the sentences to find the key points.

and became/Michael J. Fox/very popular/in his 20s/began acting/at 15

by his doctors/that he had/at the age of 29,/was told/Michael J. Fox/Parkinson's disease

(Suggested answers on page 73)



Michael J. Fox was **on top of the world** <sup>S V (片) 極度幸福</sup>  
**until** <sup>(介) 直到...</sup> one morning in 1991 [when his little  
 finger developed **tremors**]. The young  
 actor <sup>(v) 罹患</sup> was only 29 <sup>(n) 顫抖</sup> **when** <sup>S</sup> his doctor  
 informed him [that he had **Parkinson's disease** <sup>V 告知 (n) 帕金森斯病症</sup>]. **Until** <sup>(連) 直到</sup> three more doctors <sup>S V 確認</sup> confirmed the  
**diagnosis**, Fox <sup>(n) 診斷</sup> refused to believe [he had a  
 disease that typically strikes senior adults.] <sup>(adv) 通常 (v) 襲擊 (adj) 年老的</sup>

**Incredible** <sup>(adj) 難以置信 (連) 雖然</sup> **as it may seem**, he managed to  
 keep his condition **under wraps** <sup>S V (片) 對某事加以保密</sup> for the next  
 seven years **while** <sup>(介) 而同時 (v) 主演</sup> still starring in movies and TV  
 shows. But <sup>(介) 截至...</sup> by 1998, he could no longer **conceal**  
 it. He <sup>S V 揭露 (n) 診斷 (分構) 指出...</sup> revealed his diagnosis, indicating [that he  
 would be <sup>(v) 從...離開</sup> stepping away from acting to focus on  
 increasing the public's knowledge of the disease.] <sup>(v) 增加</sup>

In 2000, Fox **established** <sup>S V 建立</sup> The Michael J. Fox  
 Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Today it is <sup>(n) 基金會 (n) 研究 S V 1. 被稱為...</sup>  
 called "the most **credible** voice on Parkinson's  
 research" and has <sup>(adj) 可信的</sup> raised nearly \$2 billion.  
<sup>V 2. 已經募集 (adv) 幾乎</sup>

Fox has never **shied away from** <sup>S V 一直從不避諱...</sup> being honest <sup>(n) 影響</sup>  
 about the terrible impact [PD has had on his life.]  
 But <sup>(介) 除了...</sup> along with honesty, Fox brings humor <sup>S V (n) 幽默</sup> **as** <sup>(it+is)</sup>  
 seen in his interviews and best-selling books. <sup>(PP) (n) 訪談 (adj) 最暢銷的</sup>

**As** <sup>(介) 身為 (n) 倡議者 S V 接近</sup> an advocate, Fox approaches Parkinson's  
 disease **with** <sup>(n) 樂觀 (分構) 同時提供...</sup> optimism, offering others with the  
 disease a reason to hope. <sup>(n) 樂觀</sup>

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## Usage Tip

**Adj./Adv. as S + be/V ...** 連接詞 as 可表「雖然」之意，但此用法較常見於書面文章。此外，as 讓步子句僅置於主要子句之前，並且會以倒裝句形式出現，也就是將「修飾主詞的形容詞」或「修飾動詞的副詞」移至句首，再接上 as S + be/V，意同 although S + be/V + adj./adv.，故本句可改寫為 although it may seem incredible, he managed to ...。例句：Fast as the girl ran, she couldn't catch up with her friend.

## Word Bank

**sibling** (n) ['sɪblɪŋ] 兄；弟；姊；妹  
 Celine Dion comes from a large family of 13 **siblings**.

**bully** (v) ['buli] 欺凌，欺負  
 Glenn told his parents that his younger sister was being **bullied** online.

**rejection** (n) [rɪ'dʒɛkʃən] 拒絕  
 The life of a performer often comes with many **rejections**.

**comedy** (n) ['kɑmɪdi] 喜劇  
 The actress is best known for a popular **comedy** she appeared in during the early 2000s.

**widespread** (adj) ['waɪd'spreɪd] 廣泛的  
 Following the meeting, there was **widespread** agreement regarding the company's future direction.

**diagnosis** (n) [ˌdaɪəɡ'nɒsɪs] 診斷  
 The doctors have run many tests, but they still don't have a **diagnosis**.

**conceal** (v) [kən'seɪl] 隱瞞；隱匿  
 If you don't tell the police what you know, you might be charged with **concealing** information about a crime.

**establish** (v) [ɪ'stæblɪʃ] 創立；設立  
 Our company **established** a foundation that benefits children with cancer.

**optimism** (n) ['ɑptə'mɪzəm] 樂觀  
 I could hear **optimism** in my doctor's voice as she discussed my health concerns.

## Word Bank Review

**anticipate** (v) [æn'tɪsəpet] 預料  
 I expected a beautiful view from the mountaintop, but I never **anticipated** such spectacular scenery.

**credible** (adj) ['kredəbəl] 可信的  
 He has failed to produce some **credible** proof for his argument.

## More Information

**audition** (n) [ɔ'dɪʃən] 試鏡  
**catapult** (v) ['kætəpʌlt] 突然成為  
**tremor** (n) ['tremə] 顫抖  
**Parkinson's disease** (PD) (n) ['pɑrkɪnsənz] [dɪ'zɪz] 帕金森氏症

## Focus on Phrases

**hit pay dirt** 挖到寶；成功  
**on top of the world** 極度幸福  
**under wraps** 保密  
**shy away from** 退縮，畏避