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# ONE DIRECTION

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Practically overnight, One Direction became the band *everyone* is talking about—

now they're ready to talk back.

The guys open up about rumors, their reps, and what it's really like to date them!

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN WRIGHT

ONE DIRECTION APPEARS COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS. FASHION STYLIST: CAROLINE WATSON. GROOMING: LOU TEASDALE.

# ZAYN

**Zayn, 19, says he lives by the motto "Don't worry about other people; do what makes *you* happy." But he remains super-loyal to the other guys in the band, his girlfriend and, of course, his values.**

**17: You've got a rep as the "bad boy" in the band. How does that make you feel?**
**ZAYN MALIK:** I like to use the term *misunderstood*. But I *am* a bit of a bad boy. I have tattoos and I mess around. That's part of my image, so it's cool.

**17: You recently went public with your girlfriend. Was that a big deal to you?**
**ZM:** No, my attitude toward that is "Who cares?" If it makes you happy, why does it matter what anybody else thinks? She was a friend for a couple of months—we exchanged numbers at a shoot for *The X Factor UK*—and then we decided to start dating. That was it.

**17: It took you two years to try out for *X Factor*. Why wait?**
**ZM:** I was nervous! I applied when I was 15 and 16, but then I never signed up for the auditions. I wasn't going to go audition again, but my mom literally dragged me there when I was 17. I was a very introverted, quiet, reserved person. I loved singing, but I never had any major experience doing it and I didn't know what to expect. Not knowing what could happen was very daunting for me.

**17: Do you still get nervous when you perform?**
**ZM:** Yeah! But I've got four of my closest friends onstage with me for support. I tell myself now how many people would kill to be in my position. So to do it halfheartedly would be a little stupid and to let my lack of confidence hold me back would be silly.

INTERVIEW BY ASHLEY MATEO

## TAT TALK

**Zayn's ink are reminders of what's most important to him!**

**FINGERS CROSSED**
"It's for the future—a hope that everything goes well."

**ARABIC QUOTE**
"It says, 'Be true to who you are.' I don't believe in changing for other people."

**MICROPHONE**
"I think this is kind of self-explanatory."

**ZAP**
"I recently got this one, which just symbolizes my love for comic books. It filled a nice spot, and I've always loved comic book art."

ZAYN, FROM LEFT: MARTY MELVILLE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; TWITTER; RALPH NOTARO/SPLASH NEWS; JOHN WRIGHT.