



Janelle Monae

Welcome to the first day of your new linguistic career... because you're with Vocatic now... oh yeah! And before we start the first class I just want you to think in the beautiful lyric – letra – of the first song – *'these dreams are forever – estos sueños son para siempre...'* Why? Because education is about working to realise your dreams, and at this school these dreams are ...forever.

First song...

Our next song is called 'Wonderland' – 'El pais de las maravillas.' But remember... one meaning isn't enough. In the second verse of the song Janelle uses another meaning of the verb 'wander' which is 'vagar, desambular,' *'to walk around with no particular intention'* and the third definition of wonder which you must know is 'preguntarse.' For example, *'I wonder if Lynch will shut up and play the music.'* I will, but remember the three definitions of wonder.

1. Wonderland – pais de las maravillas
2. Wander – desambular, vagar
3. Wonder – preguntarse

Okay, so let's listen to *'Wonderland...'* with our artist of the week and just remember one thing: you are intelligent.

Next song...

If you're listening closely you'll hear *'take me back to wonderland... I gotta get back to Wonderland'* Two phrasal verbs – *'take me back'* to wonderland, and *'I gotta get back to Wonderland – tengo que volver a Wonderland.'* And I know phrasal verbs are difficult but there is some logic. Any phrasal verb which includes *'back'* means *'to return.'* So for example,

*'Give me back my pencil'* is *'Return my pencil to me.'*

*'I wanna get money back that I lent to Phil... I wanna recuperate my money.'*

It always has the sense of returning. So let's play the track again but listen out this time for "Take me back to wonderland I gotta get back to Wonderland." In fact, sing that to yourself once will you....

"Take me back to wonderland I gotta get back to Wonderland."

Hey....I said 'sing it!'...

"Take me back to wonderland I gotta get back to Wonderland."

Okay, let's stop F-ing around and play the track.

Okay, so, don't forget we're listening today to Janelle Monae – a beautiful young black woman from Kansas in the USA. She's 26 year old, she was discovered by the singer from Outcast and she was described by vogue magazine as *'a new kind of diva.'* So let's listen to her most well-known song and I want you to listen to the chorus and the phrase *'whether you're high or low.'*

Next song...

Okay, we'll return to that in one second but first let's talk about 'whether.' 'Weather' normally means the 'tiempo' 'la clima' but it also means 'if.' So when do you use whether and when do you use if?

Often they're 'intercambiable' and there's no difference at all. For example...'I'll still love you if you're rich or poor.' Or... 'I'll still love you whether you're rich or poor'. However, we do distinguish when it comes to infinitives.

For example, "I'm not sure whether to ask for a salary increase or not."

There's an infinitive: 'to ask for'.

"I'm not sure whether to ask for a salary increase or not."

And we also use it after prepositions. "I haven't decided the question of whether to go to the party or not."

Okay, so 'whether' has three uses...

1. Intercambiable con if.
2. After infinitives.
3. After prepositions.

So let's listen to that again and just focus on 'whether you're high or low.'

Okay... so that was Janelle Monae... go and buy that album right now, and let's finish with a little bit of vocabulary because Janelle is singing about 'a tightrope – a cuerda floja – a tightrope' and she's talking about 'trip tripping on the tight ropoe...'

You all know 'trip – viaje' but 'trip' also means to 'fall' so Janelle's talking about falling 'cayendose' from a tightrope.

Ok... in every single show we're going to finish with a different type of music from what we listened to in the first part of the show. And in this very interesting track from the eighties we're just going to extract one word of vocabulary. The first word in the song 'cease (cesar - terminar) cease.

And the lyric in the song is 'cease to exist.' Well, I started to record this podcast at 4 am and it's now 8 am... it's very early... it's also very early in your relationship as a student with Vocatic, but stay with us; because we are committed to you and we are committed to taking your english to the very highest level.