



MUSICMAIL 6

Self Study, punk and success

www.vocatic.com

Vocatic

(Photo: **Gwen Stefani in black and White.**)Intro: Last week, I was in Colombia, and this guy was saying that in Colombia everybody wants to study at established schools – traditional schools. And that Vocatic, as a new school would have problems. Then I looked at this guy in the eyes and I said, these established schools... they're okay.... But can they do this? (After the intro we hear... *The Clash – The magnificent seven.*) Okay, we're going to return to that song at the end of the podcast... but first...let's listen to a bit of this...



The Black eyed Peas... The boogie that be

Okay, today I'd like to teach you some classic colloquial English... you will amaze your friends with this. The song begins with sirens and the rapper says...

Yo, you hear 'em sirens
I know you hear 'em
Don't get scared
It ain't five-o (naw)
That's the funk yo (yeah)
Don't act like you didn't know (hun)
It's just the way it goes (yeah)
When you messin' with the funk (yeah)
You bumpin' in the trunk (yeah)
You it's what you want (yeah)

"Yo, you hear 'em sirens... escuchas esas sirenas...
I know you hear 'em ... yo se que las escuchas
Don't get scared ... no te asustes...
It ain't five-o ... no es la policia
That's the funk yo ... esa es el funk, no!"

Five O is classic colloquial English – especially in hip hop English and films that means – *la policia*. It's slang that comes from the famous TV program *Hawai Five O*. I would also like you to notice the way he uses the negative. He does not say... 'don't get scared – it isn't five O,' he says... 'don't get scared – it ain't five O. 'Ain't' is a common colloquial substitute for 'isn't' or 'aren't.'

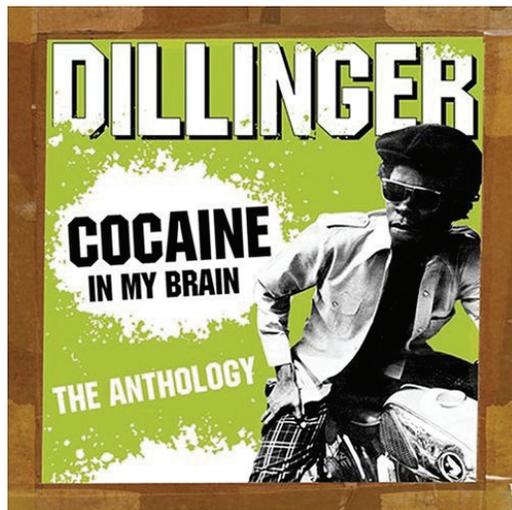
So just bump, the bump, da-bump
Bump, bump, bump it up
Bounce boo, to the boogie that be
You know I
Want you to come boogie with me

Okay, let's listen one more time, and remember... 'Five O' is the police... 'ain't' is 'isn't'

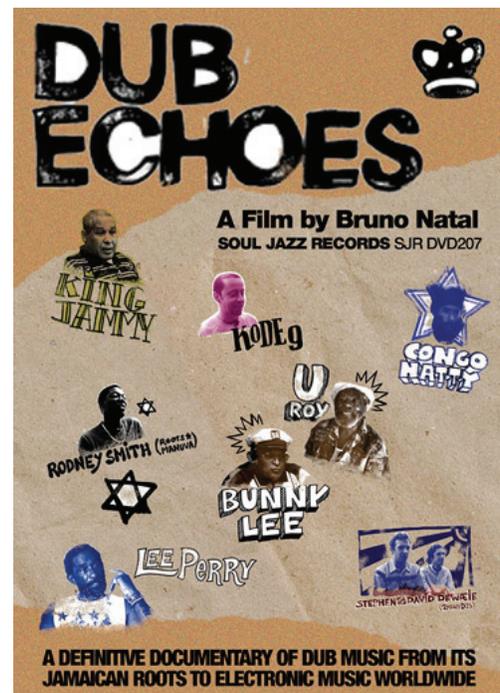
Messin' – metiendose
Bumpin' – bailando / moviendose

www.vocatic.com

We can
 Dip left, slide right, all night
 It's time to be wild, freestyle
 It's on and poppin'
 Ain't no stoppin'
 Us from rockin'
 From tonight till ten o'clockin'
 In the morning
 Got neighbors knockin' (sign 'em now)
 Fuck 'em go call them cops and
 Watch 'em kids walk and start boppin'
 Heads to what that DJ droppin'
 He play funk punkin', hip-hoppin'
 Breakin' laws, yeah culture shockin'
 We be pop lockin' and moshing
 I get down and groove to cuts (yeah)
 Check mark on all groovin' butts
 Now days cats is scared to dare (that's right)
 This beat plays, whoo
 Here's my chance
 Come on girl let's go out there
 Dance on the floor, haaaa.....



Hey Jim, Jim, just a minute y'all
 I want to ask you somethin'
 I want you to spell somethin' for me Jim
 Can you do that? Sure John
 But I want you to spell for me New York
 John, why you ask me to do that?
 I just want you to spell New York, Jim
 Well alright, I'm gonna go ahead man
 N-E-W Y-O-R-K, that's New York man
 No Jim, you've made a mistake, Jim
 I'm gonna teach you the right way
 And the proper way to spell New York
 Well, go ahead, John
 A knife, a fork, a bottle and a cork
 That's the way we spell New York, Jim - yeah
 You see I'm a dynamite
 So all you got to do is hold me tight
 Because I'm out a sight, you know
 'Cause I'm a dynamite
 But everytime I walk in the rain
 Man, o man, I feel a pain, I feel a burning pain
 Keep on burning in my bloody brain



www.vocatic.com

Dillinger... Cocaine in my brain

Dillinger was a Jamaica musician who was prominent in the seventies. In this raw, vibrant track Dillinger talks about cocaine. The most important phrase I want you to take from this song is 'running around my brain.' (corriendo/dando vueltas por mi cerebro) In English when you talk about intense thoughts or feelings you talk about them 'running around' or 'running through' my brain. You can also say 'running around my head.'

What you should also learn from this is the importance of the preposition... if you miss the preposition then you change the meaning. If dillinger had sung 'I've got cocaine running my brain...' well, running something means dirigiendolo. One preposition but very important.

One more interesting phrase comes later in the song "I have a burning pain" burning in my 'bloody brain'. Bloody, in this sense, does not mean *sangriento*... *bloody* is a common British English colloquialism that means 'maldito.'

Okay let's listen one more time.

Spell – deletrear
Mistake - error
Proper – correcto
Brain - cerebro

NWA...

Real Niggaz

First come, first serve, whoever's got the nerve
Step up and get what you deserve
Other words if a muthafucking hip-hop maniac
Brainiac, so what you oughta do is step the fuck back
But how the fuck you think a rapper last
Wit your ass saying shit that is said in the past
Yo, be original, your shit is sloppy
Get off the dick you muthafucking carbon copy

Falling deep in the drums so many of styles
Is one of the reasons a nigga ran a hundred miles
Cheating and not beating, the crowd I kept seating
But weak muthafuckas biting off and they kept eating
Styles that kept them full of bull
'Cause the vocals were local in nightclubs and not getting paid
in full

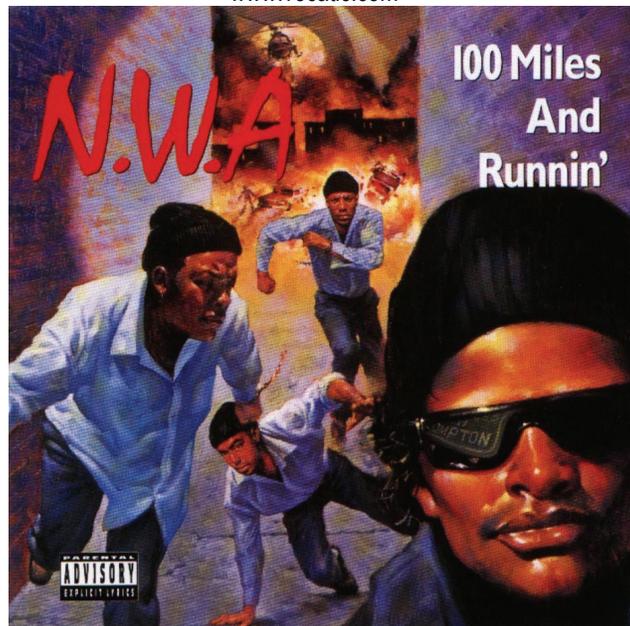
They got the nerve to cuss
Only reason niggaz pick up your record is cause they thought it
was us

Yo, giving what I gotta give, doing what I gotta do
You don't care for me, so who gives a fuck about you
You can't harm me, alarm me
'Cause we're the generals in this fucking hip-hop army
The niggaz wit attitudes if you didn't know
We blow, flow and getting loose slow from the get go, yo
Try us and take it
Yo, fuck this shit, Yella, kick the break in

It's the real thing, you are now real, real niggaz, niggaz

You can run but you can't hide, you know I'm a find'cha
'Cause a nigga like Ren's only 2 steps behind'cha
Don't look back, 'cause you're shaking and all scared
A nigga in black can be your scariest nightmare
So sleep wit the lights on, forget that the mic's on
Don't step on my muthafucking stage without nikes on
Don't say it's psycho and then you just might go
Mentally fucked up when I let the right blow

www.vocatic.com



Remember, hip-hop English is extremely difficult to understand. It's better just to isolate some key phrases. First of all, though...context.

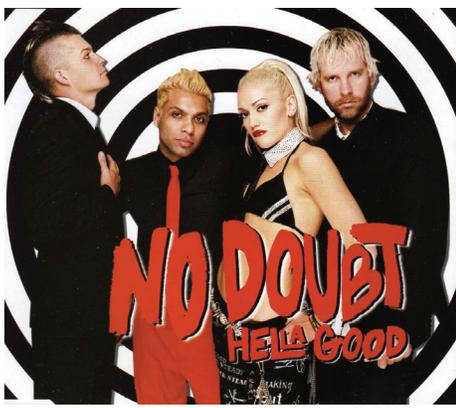
The title of the song is *Real Niggaz* and it's about all the hip hop artists and people who are copying the style of NWA. But most importantly it's about ICE CUBE – the member of NWA who left the group after a big dispute over money. The most important thing you can learn from this song, though, is 'attitude'. If you listen you'll hear the rapper say 'we're niggas with attitude... negros con actitud' (but remember, never use the word *nigger* – as I told you before). Well, we all know that attitude means 'actitud' but in English the term 'attitude' is loaded with a lot more significance.

For example... if I say that Jimmy jinx 'has attitude' it isn't a factual declaration that he has an attitude – because of course, everyone has an attitude – it's that he has a strong attitude and strong opinions and is usually pushing them in other people's faces.

If you are talking to someone and they start to raise their voice or seem angry, you could say... hey, why are you giving me attitude?

Well, I think it's fair to say that NWA have attitude, I also think it's fair to say that this is truly a brilliant track. Raw energy, Raw power, NWA.

Vocatic



No Doubt... Hella good

www.vocatic.com

Right, let's move on to Gwen Stefani with No doubt. Now, this song could make anyone dance... but we're not here to dance, friends, we're here to learn. More specifically, the complexities of the word *hell*.

Hell, of course means 'infierno' which is appropriate as Gwen Stefani is a Catholic. But it has a dual meaning. If something bad happens you can say... *it was hell*. Or you can say your head hurts 'like hell'...

But curiously, if something good happens you can say 'How was the weekend?' and the person could say 'hell, it was good.'

Or...

Your wife is one hell of a good cook...

That was one hell of a good party...

It's been one hell of a good holiday.

All of these expressions are positive. This is the same positivity in Gwen Stefani's invented expression – "you make me feel hella good"

Okay, let's listen because in my opinion this is one hell of a good song.

Crashing – chocando

Thunderbolt – relampago

The waves keep on crashing on me for some reason
But your love keeps on coming like a thunderbolt
Come here a little closer
'Cause I wanna see you, baby, real close up
(Get over here)

You've got me feeling hella good
So let's just keep on dancing
You hold me like you should
So I'm gonna keep on dancing

Your performance deserving a standing ovation
And who would have thought it'd be the two of us
So don't wake me if I'm dreaming
'Cause I'm in the mood come on and give it up

Ian Carey ft Snoop dog... Last Night

Okay, Ian Carey with Snoop Dog, ... what a party song. And it's not just a party song because it will keep you dancing but because it's about partying. In fact it's pretty much the story of my life. Let me translate the chorus. The song is called 'Last night' *Anoche*, and it goes like this...

Last night, I don't remember last night
Anoche... no me acuerdo de nada
I said 'I'd never'... last night
Anoche dije ... 'nunca jamas'
What was I thinking? I really need to give up drinking
En que estaba pensando... tengo que dejar de beber
I'm not going to drink again But who am I kiddin'?
No volvere a tomar nada... pero esto es broma, no?
I'm about to call my friends tonight and do it over again
Estoy a punto de llamar a mis amigos y hacer todo otra vez

The key phrase here is 'kidding'. A synonym of 'joking' 'bromeando'. When the singer says he *will never drink again* he then realises que esta engañandose... que esto es broma... porque el hecho es que no puedo resistir otra noche mas de party party. Okay, let's listen.



www.vocatic.com

I'm in the club so damn down I lost my friends and i lost my phone
I'm staggering all by alone Don't even know how I'll get home
But its OK its alright I'm so fresh yes, I'm so fly
I swore last night id give up drinking Such a lie what was I thinking

I see them moving, see them dancing Yeah they're doing that
I see them grooving poppin' bottles Like its new to them
I wanna join them but it seems like they're too far for me
Plus where's the bathroom man Cause i really really got to pee

Last night, I don't remember last night I said I'd never last night
What was i thinking? I really need to give up drinking
I'm not going to drink again But who am I kiddin'
I'm about to call my friends tonight
and do it over again

The Clash – Magnificent 7

www.vocatic.com

And now, I said we'd finish with The Clash, so let's do that. And the phrase I want you to learn is... 'You lot, don't stop – give it all you've got.'

'You lot' means 'todo vosotros' and I find the line 'don't stop – give it all you've got' very inspiring and motivational for our English course.

But that's not the only thing I find inspiring. I find the Clash inspiring because they were a punk band and punk was about doing things yourself. The singer of The Clash could barely play his instrument, he didn't take guitar lessons... he just picked up the guitar and learnt it by himself. He didn't care if he made any errors or if people laughed at him... He believed in himself, he didn't need anybody else to show him, he didn't pay any teachers; he just did it himself with his passion and desire to succeed. And that is something we can all learn from. Goodbye.



Ring! Ring! It's 7:00 A.M.!
 Move y'self to go again
 Cold water in the face
 Brings you back to this awful place
 Knuckle merchants and you bankers,
 too
 Must get up an' learn those rules
 Weather man and the crazy chief
 One says sun and one says sleet
 A.M., the F.M. the P.M. too
 Churning out that boogaloo
 Gets you up and gets you out
 But how long can you keep it up?
 Gimme Honda, Gimme Sony
 So cheap and real phony
 Hong Kong dollars and Indian cents
 English pounds and Eskimo pence

You lot! What?
 Don't stop! Give it all you got!
 You lot! What?
 Don't stop! Yeah!

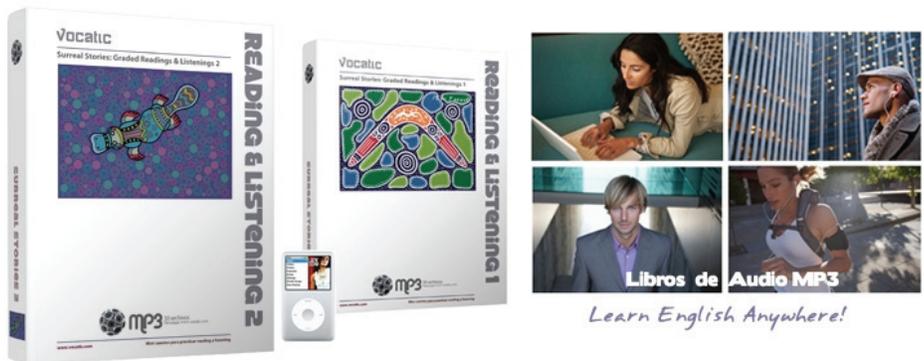
Working for a rise, better my station
 Take my baby to sophistication
 She's seen the ads, she thinks it's nice
 Better work hard - I seen the price
 Never mind that it's time for the bus
 We got to work - an' you're one of us
 Clocks go slow in a place of work
 Minutes drag and the hours jerk

"When can I tell 'em wot I do?
 In a second, maaan...oright Chuck!"

Wave bub-bub-bub-bye to the boss
 It's our profit, it's his loss
 But anyway lunch bells ring
 Take one hour and do your thanng!
 Cheeesboiger!



Join the revolution
TOTAL ACCESS



Learn English Anywhere!

Vocatic