New English File Teacher's Book Pre-intermediate
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Ain't got no / I've got life

I ain't got no [1] *home*, ain't got no shoes
Ain't got no [2] _____, ain't got no class
Ain't got no skirts, ain't got no [3] _____
Ain't got no [4] _____, ain't got no beer
Ain't got no man
Ain't got no [5] _____, ain't got no culture
Ain't got no [6] _____, ain't got no schooling
Ain't got no love, ain't got no [7] _____
Ain't got no [8] _____, ain't got no token
Ain't got no god

What have I got?
Why am I alive anyway?
Yeah, what have I got
Nobody can take away?

I've got my hair, got my [9] _____
I've got my brains, got my [10] _____,
I've got my eyes, got my [11] _____
I've got my [12] _____, I've got my smile
I've got my [13] _____, got my chin
I've got my neck, got my [14] _____
I've got my heart, got my soul
I've got my back, I got my self
I've got my [15] _____, got my hands,
I've got my fingers, got my [16] _____
I've got my feet, got my [17] _____
I've got my liver, got my blood

I've got life, I've got my freedom
I've got life
I've got life
And I'm gonna keep it
I've got life
And nobody's gonna take it away

⚠ Pop songs often use words and phrases which are slang or are not grammatically correct.

a Match the words and phrases.

In songs		Grammatically correct
1 I ain't (rich)	☐	a I don't have
2 I ain't got no (money)	☐	b I'm going to ...
3 I wanna (be free)	☐	c because
4 I'm gonna (leave you)	☐	d I'm not ...
5 Yeah	☐	e I want to ...
6 'cos / 'cause	☐	f Yes

b Look at the pictures in the song which show the missing words. What can you see?

c Listen and complete the song.

Glossary

class = (in this context) style
culture = (in this context) knowledge about art and literature, etc.
schooling = education
token = a piece of paper or plastic that you can use to buy things
soul = the spiritual part of a person
liver = the part of your body that cleans your blood
blood = the red liquid that flows through your body
freedom = the noun from *free*

Song facts

Ain't got no / I got life was originally recorded by Nina Simone in 1968. It was an adaptation of two songs from the 1960s musical *Hair* and it became one of her most popular songs.

LIVEWORKSHEETS