

The Power Of Words In **Rap Songs** : the example of **EMINEM**

I thought it might be a good idea to just start with my favourite Eminem song : STAN. If you don't know it, check it out below. It's about a fan gone mad.



1. Watch Eminem's biography & choose the right answer.

	Right	Wrong	D.K
The documentary does not give details about where Marshall was born.	R	W	D.K
When he was born, Marshall's mother was only 15. He had no father.	R	W	D.K
Marshall lived in districts where he did not often meet black people.	R	W	D.K
What he enjoyed doing was finding the right words to win rap battles.	R	W	D.K
Eminem started to become famous but did not have much money.	R	W	D.K
He became very famous when Doctor Dre noticed him.	R	W	D.K
Because of his lyrics, Eminem was arrested by the Secret Service.	R	W	D.K
Eminem often made bad jokes about gays, lesbians and jewish people too.	R	W	D.K
Elton John assured people that Eminem was not homophobic and that they were friends.	R	W	D.K
Eminem once had a very serious heroin addiction problem.	R	W	D.K
Eminem had legal problems with the Snoop Dogg for plagiarism.	R	W	D.K
In his song « Storm », he criticized President Donald Trump.	R	W	D.K
In 2019, Eminem confessed he had lost his motivation for music.	R	W	D.K

2. Learn English with an extract from three of Eminem's songs

SONG 1 « LOSE YOURSELF »

What's a « shot » in the song?

When you fire a gun	An opportunity	A drink
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What's the French equivalent of that expression ? _____

« To seize » means « to take, to grab ». But what is the traditional latin expression people use to say « seize the day » ? [Click here to watch an extract containing the answer](#)

Cogito ergo sum	Carpe diem	Morituri te salutant
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In English, « laisser une occasion vous filer entre les doigts » se dit « to let an opportunity _____ through your _____ »

« to drop a bomb » means to...

Insult a person	Give a scoop to magazines	Say something very shocking
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When your « time is up », it means that...

Your time is over	You are too old	You must hurry
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« to run out » is a synonym of...

To go away	To come to an end	To eat your food
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When you « snap back to reality », you...

Take a break from the real world	Realize your dream is over	Stop taking drugs
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If you have your back against the ropes, you...

Are close to defeat	Are a professional boxer	Decide to win
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What expression means that you want to go to work and return with new ideas ?

Time flies	On the go	Back to the lab
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Talking about phonetics, what does the American [d] sound like ?

[b]	[d]	[p]
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At the end of part 1, you can practice singing some passages of « Lose yourself » if you want.

Doing karaoke helps improve your pronunciation TRY IT !

SONG 2 « THE REAL SLIM SHADY »

When he compares his song to a « head trip », Eminem means that it's...

Mentally stimulating	Cheaper than a real trip	Only for clever people
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« y'all » is the equivalent of « you all ». It is also possible to say...

You folks	Yo	You guys
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If you « sugarcoat » something a description, you make it...

Fictional	Critical	More pleasant than reality
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When you « spit » your lyrics, it means that you....

Are sick	Do not respect other singers	Recite rapping
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You can say « at the speed of ». But in his song, Eminem says...

At the rate of	Faster than	Speed up
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« to lurk » is a synonym of.....with a desire you to do something wrong.

To envy	To see	To pretend
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To tell a person « you're crazy ! », you can say « you'reof your !

SONG 3 « THE MONSTER »

The expression meaning « you must accept what's given to you if you can't buy it yourself » is «..... can'tchoosey »

« have your cake and eat it too » is something you say when someone wants at the same time two things that don't go together. What expression could be the equivalent ?

→ « Vouloir leet l'.....du »

« to blow off some steam » is something you need to do when you feel...

Stressed and tense	Much too tired	Sad for personal reasons
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The expression « to hit the lottery » is used for someone...

Lucky	Desperate	Rich
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A « bittersweet » experience makes you feel.....at the same time.

Very lonely

Neglected

Happy and sad