

Unit 9 - Back in the Jam

9A Introduction

Hip-hop was born in the Bronx in the seventies. It came out of parties – street parties thrown by young DJs who knew they could get the crowd into it if they mixed beats and spit rhymes on the mic. They say there are four pillars to hip-hop: DJing (scratching and mixing), MCing (rapping), graffiti and break dancing. But from a few guys spinning on their heads and tagging walls in the Bronx, hip-hop has become an international business worth billions of dollars. Still, when the sun goes down, hip-hop really lives on the block, right around the corner.

9B Song Lyrics

We put the OOP - OOP back in the jam.

We agreed about music, we're in **accord**,
 Are we in a Jetta? Naw, we're in an Accord.
 Please excuse my **antics**, my playful tricks,
 And Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally, yeah she's kind of sick.
 There's four parts or **components** in Hip-Hop,
 Graffiti, break-dancing, DJing and rapping.
 We made the **transition** and change from scating,
 From "Skoobiddybeebop" to "you know we rock."
 Some say graffiti, it **defaces** a wall,
 Spoils its appearance, and changes it all.
 Others say it's not harmful, it's **benign**,
 In fact, it makes a boring wall look just fine.
 You're a **rational** person, think and reason,
 You be the judge: Tell me what you're believing.
 Rap started in America, up in the Bronx,
 Then spread through the world, bringing us the funk.

Hook

Hip-Hop turned into a **bonanza**, oh my,
 A source of great wealth like a gold mine.
 If it's an **infinite**, never-ending source of wealth,
 We better spread it out, never keep it to ourselves.
 Let me **cite** an example, refer to some proof:
 Ludacris gives money back to the schools.
 'Cause Luda realized rapping can be **lucrative**,
 Very profitable, if you're good with it.

That's an idea or a **concept** that works,
 So a million lazy rappers emerge.
 But it's not an **enigma**, or a riddle,
 Lazy people get played quickly like fiddles.
 We don't give in to it, **succumb** to greed,
 It's not about money, this is fun to me.
 Maybe Cash Rules Everything Around Me - CREAM,
 But I stay calm and serene.

Hook



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9C Words Defined

accord / antics / benign / bonanza / cite / component / concept / deface / enigma / infinite / lucrative / rational / serene / succumb / transition

Below you'll find each vocabulary word that was used in the song. Each word is followed by the part of speech, a simple definition and a meaningful sentence. Some words will also have synonyms, antonyms and other forms of the word listed.

1. **accord** (noun) an agreement, usually a formal one.

The two countries reached an *accord* to end the war.

Other forms: Two ideas can be in *accordance* (noun) or in *accord* (noun) when similar. One idea can be *according* (adverb) to another.

2. **antics** (noun) playful or mischievous tricks, pranks or shenanigans

My mother was late for work and in no mood for my brother's *antics* as he tied his shoelaces.

3. **benign** (adj) 1. not harmful 2. kind and generous (of a person)

1. You think swallowing a little dirt is bad, but it's actually *benign*. 2. The *benign* ruler sent out birthday cards to all her subjects.

4. **bonanza** (noun) a rich harvest or a sudden good fortune

This year's crop of tomatoes was a *bonanza* for the local farmers.
Synonyms: gold mine, windfall

5. **cite** (verb) to quote something as an authority

Lawyers often *cite* police documents to prove their case.

Other forms: When a writer *cites* a source in an essay, it is a *citation* (noun).

6. **component** (noun) a part or piece of a greater whole

Learning how to write introductions is just one *component* of writing an entire essay.

Synonyms: element, ingredient, constituent

7. **concept** (noun) an idea

Dividing exponents was a difficult *concept* for the honor students to grasp.

Other forms: An idea that is not yet completed is just *conceptual* (adj.).

8. **deface** (verb) to spoil the appearance of

Those students who *deface* the locker room walls with graffiti will spend their weekend scrubbing it clean.

Synonyms: to mar, vandalize

9. **enigma** (noun) a puzzling situation or person

I can't figure out what motivates Darnell; he's an *enigma* to me.

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10. infinite  (adj) going on forever; having no boundaries

It looked as though there were an *infinite* amount of daisies in the meadow next to my house.

Antonyms: limited, finite

Other forms: The astronauts hope to explore a tiny part of the *infinity* (noun) that is space.

11. lucrative  (adj) very profitable

Luckily, my stockbroker made a *lucrative* investment with my money, so I will be able to retire early.

12. rational  (adj) reasonable, sensible

The crooks knew they needed to stay *rational* and not make any crazy decisions.

Synonyms: calm, level-headed

Antonyms: illogical, irrational

13. serene  (adj) calm and peaceful

The grandparents liked the *serene* atmosphere of the resort, as opposed to the loud and noisy beach area.

Other forms: *Serenity* (noun) overcame me as I sat silently next to the still lake.

14. succumb  (verb) to yield, surrender; give in

The protesters did not *succumb* to the spraying of pepper spray and rubber bullets.

Antonyms: conquer, dominate

15. transition  (noun) a movement from one form, state, style or place to another

The twenty-second century will witness a *transition* from automobiles to flying “aero-cars.”

Other forms: *Transition* can also be used as a verb: Bill *transitioned* from selling bikes to selling cars.

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9D Fix the Mistake

accord / antics / benign / bonanza / cite / component / concept / deface / enigma / infinite / lucrative / rational / serene / succumb / transition

Each of the sentences below has a mistake. The wrong vocabulary words have been used, so the sentences don't make sense. Rewrite each sentence using the correct vocabulary word from this unit.

1. It was often difficult for hyper Jake to **antics** from PE class to reading class.

2. The pumpkin patch was a(n) **accord** of different sizes and shapes to choose from.

3. Frances **cites** her desk in math class with drawings of roses and guitars.

4. Crawling on my stomach under barbed wire was only one **concept** of the obstacle course.

5. Thankfully, Josh's stomach tumor was **lucrative** and could be operated on immediately.

6. At the maternity ward, it was very **infinite**, since only two babies had been born and they were both sleeping.

7. During the earthquake, the teacher remained **benign** so that she could give clear instructions for her students to follow.

8. My little sister's **enigmas** in the grocery store were so embarrassing that we had to leave our full cart and go home.

9. The **component** between my parents and me was that if I got all A's and B's on my report card, they would buy me a new car of my choice.

10. After pulling my dad over for speeding, the police officer **succumbed** the traffic code to prove he had broken the law.

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11. There was a(n) **serene** amount of balloons at the birthday party.

12. Although she was surrounded by sugary foods, Casey vowed to stick to her diet and not to **deface** to the cravings.

13. After collecting over three thousand Beanie Babies, I discovered it was not a very **rational** investment since they were not worth any more than I'd paid for them.

14. Chemistry was by far the most difficult **bonanza** to understand in high school.

15. It was a total **transition**: The only person who could have committed the crime had a bulletproof alibi.

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9E Pick the Winner

accord / antics / benign / bonanza / cite / component / concept / deface / enigma / infinite / lucrative / rational / serene / succumb / transition

Circle the word that best fits into the sentence. Then write a sentence below that uses the word you didn't pick in a meaningful way.

1. Five countries reached an **(accord OR antic)**, agreeing to not bomb each other during the holiday season.

2. The **(enigma OR transition)** from childhood to adolescence is a bumpy one at times.

3. The monastery had a very **(serene OR rational)** atmosphere, so I felt very calm during my visit.

4. In order to be initiated into the gang, the recruits had to **(succumb OR deface)** a wall with graffiti.

5. One **(component OR bonanza)** of winning the board game was to collect as many of your opponent's game pieces as possible.

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9F Draw the Relationships

accord / antics / benign / bonanza / cite / component / concept / deface / enigma / infinite / lucrative / rational / serene / succumb / transition

In each grouping of eight words below, draw straight lines between the synonyms (words that mean similar things) and squiggly lines between any antonyms (words that mean nearly opposite things). Every word should have at least one line connected to it. Some may have more.

1

accord

lottery win

disagreement

foolishness

harmful

benign

bonanza

antics

.....

2

cite

element

idea

concept

reference

vandalize

component

deface

.....

3

infinite

rational

wild

profitable

lucrative

serene

measurable

illogical

.....

4

succumb

stay strong

change

infinite

puzzle

enigma

transition

endless

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9G Understanding What You Read

accord / antics / benign / bonanza / cite / component / concept / deface / enigma / infinite / lucrative / rational / serene / succumb / transition

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

Ashley tried to justify her antics to her friends. “Come on, Jas,” she whined. “It wasn’t that bad.” Jasmine looked at her like she was crazy.

“You’re not even acting rational lately,” she said. “You’re acting all weird, like you’re trying to get everyone’s attention or something.”

“I am not.” Ashley looked confused, as though she couldn’t believe what her friend was saying. “You can’t prove that.”

Jasmine started to cite examples: the time Ashley defaced the school wall with lipstick, the time she climbed on Ms. Swanson’s car and started screaming about how she hated football. Ashley nodded her head. “Alright, that’s a little weird,” she agreed. “I guess. But it’s all benign stuff. I didn’t hurt anybody.”

“It’s not benign! You’ve been my best friend for years. You said our friendship was infinite and we were going to be like that forever. Now all of a sudden, you’re getting strange and changing and all that.” Jasmine looked down, trying not to succumb to the sadness that was overwhelming her.

Ashley touched Jasmine on the shoulder and looked at her with a serene, peaceful expression. “I’m sorry,” she said. “I know it’s been weird. But middle school’s weird. Everybody does weird stuff.”

“Yeah, but you don’t have to,” Jasmine said.

“I know.” Ashley hugged her. “But you can be more supportive.” Jasmine nodded. Having reached their accord, the two friends walked to class.

1. Jasmine accuses Ashley of

- (A) being mean
- (B) paying too much attention to boys
- (C) letting her grades slip
- (D) trying to be the center of attention

2. Ashley “not acting rationally” suggests she was

- (A) not acting sensibly
- (B) acting logically
- (C) not acting silly enough
- (D) not being friendly

3. The “accord” that Ashley and Jasmine reach at the end of the passage is probably an agreement to

- (A) disagree
- (B) split up as friends
- (C) be supportive friends again
- (D) hug and go to class

4. The text suggests that middle school is a time when

- (A) many enigmas come around every corner
- (B) students are benign
- (C) girls and boys don’t get along
- (D) some people act strangely

5. A synonym for Ashley’s “antics” would be

- (A) bad grades
- (B) money
- (C) shenanigans
- (D) temper tantrums

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9H Thinking Creatively

accord / antics / benign / bonanza / cite / component / concept / deface / enigma / infinite / lucrative / rational / serene / succumb / transition

Answer each question below. Don't be afraid to think creatively.

1. Would you rather live under a **benign** king or a boring President?

2. Rewrite this sentence using synonyms: Sally **cited** several sayings.

3. What is something that you consider **infinite**?

4. Describe a **lucrative** business you could start at school.

5. What is an **enigma** that is unsolved?

Word Breakdown

Enigma comes from Latin *aenigma* (“riddle”), which comes from *ainos*, the Greek word for “fable.” In today’s usage, an enigma can be either a riddle (“What can you catch but can’t throw?”) or a mystery (“Who really shot John F. Kennedy?”). The Prime Minister of England during World War II, Winston Churchill, was once asked what he thought Russia would do after the war. He answered: “I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.”