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Level 4 – 16th March 2026

Songs with non-English lyrics are becoming more popular

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260316-english-language-music-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260316-english-language-music-4.html>

Since the start of rock 'n' roll, American and British songs have dominated music. Both countries benefited a lot from hit songs in English. However, the dominance of English-language songs is under threat. The music streaming giant Spotify said English songs were losing their stranglehold. There is now a huge demand for songs sung in Spanish, Korean, and Arabic. The number of non-English songs in the charts more than doubled in the past five years.

A prime example of the rise in non-English songs is the popularity of Bad Bunny. He sings only in Spanish. He was Spotify's most streamed artist in 2025. In addition, Spanish singer Rosalia made an award-winning album on which she sings in 13 different languages. Three music genres have seen their chart presence rise by 30 per cent or more in the past five years. These are Brazilian Funk, K-pop, and Trap Latino.

Sources: <https://www.musicweek.com/digital/read/spotify-breaks-down-11bn-payout-to-music-industry-including-rise-of-non-english-language-music/093720>
<https://www.nme.com/news/music/spotify-reports-growing-surge-of-non-english-pop-music-on-global-chart-3934169>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9v04gney9yo>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260316-english-language-music-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Since the start of | a. language songs |
| 2. British songs have | b. sung in Spanish |
| 3. benefited a lot | c. dominated music |
| 4. the dominance of English- | d. stranglehold |
| 5. The music streaming | e. more than doubled |
| 6. English songs were losing their | f. rock 'n' roll |
| 7. a huge demand for songs | g. giant Spotify |
| 8. non-English songs in the charts | h. from hit songs |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A prime | a. streamed artist |
| 2. the rise | b. of Bad Bunny |
| 3. the popularity | c. genres |
| 4. He sings only in | d. in non-English songs |
| 5. He was Spotify's most | e. winning album |
| 6. Rosalia made an award- | f. in the past five years |
| 7. music | g. example |
| 8. rise by 30 per cent or more | h. Spanish |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260316-english-language-music-4.html>

Since the start of rock 'n' roll, American and British
(1) _____ music. Both countries benefited a lot
from (2) _____ English. However, the dominance
of English-language songs (3) _____. The music
streaming giant Spotify said English songs
(4) _____ stranglehold. There is now
(5) _____ for songs sung in Spanish, Korean, and
Arabic. The number of non-English songs in the charts more
(6) _____ the past five years.

A (7) _____ the rise in non-English songs is the
popularity of Bad Bunny. He (8) _____ Spanish. He
was Spotify's (9) _____ in 2025. In addition,
Spanish singer Rosalia made an (10) _____ on
which she sings in 13 different languages. Three
(11) _____ seen their chart presence rise by 30 per
cent or more in (12) _____ years. These are
Brazilian Funk, K-pop, and Trap Latino.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260316-english-language-music-4.html>

Since the start of rock'n'roll, American and British songs have dominated music. Both countries benefited a lot from hit songs in English. However, the dominance of English-language songs is under threat. The music streaming giant Spotify said English songs were losing their stranglehold. There is now a huge demand for songs sung in Spanish, Korean, and Arabic. The number of non-English songs in the charts more than doubled in the past five years. A prime example of the rise in non-English songs is the popularity of Bad Bunny. He sings only in Spanish. He was Spotify's most streamed artist in 2025. In addition, Spanish singer Rosalía made an award-winning album on which she sings in 13 different languages. Three music genres have seen their chart presence rise by 30 percent or more in the past five years. These are Brazilian Funk, K-pop, and Trap Latino.

SONG LYRICS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260316-english-language-music-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about song lyrics in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

