

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

## **Level 5 – 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-5.html>

## **Contents**

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

**X (Twitter)**



[X.com/SeanBanville](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260316-english-language-music-5.html>

Since the start of rock 'n' roll in the 1950s, songs from the USA and UK have dominated music charts. Both countries benefited a lot from hit songs with English lyrics. However, the dominance of English-language songs is under threat from non-English songs. This is according to the music streaming giant Spotify. The company said English-language music was losing its stranglehold. There has been a huge demand for songs sung in Spanish, Korean, Arabic, and other languages. 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 Puerto Rican singer Bad Bunny. He sings only in Spanish. He was Spotify's most streamed artist in 2025. Meanwhile, Spanish artist Rosalia created an award-winning album on which she sings in 13 different languages. Spotify said 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. The music website NME said: "The trend is likely to continue growing further into 2026."

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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Since the start of rock 'n' roll | a. non-English songs      |
| 2. music                            | b. sung in Spanish        |
| 3. Both countries benefited         | c. in the past five years |
| 4. under threat from                | d. a lot                  |
| 5. the music streaming              | e. in the 1950s           |
| 6. a huge demand for songs          | f. non-English songs      |
| 7. The number of                    | g. charts                 |
| 8. more than doubled                | h. giant Spotify          |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A prime                   | a. winning album          |
| 2. the popularity            | b. streamed artist        |
| 3. He sings                  | c. genres                 |
| 4. He was Spotify's most     | d. of Puerto Rican singer |
| 5. Rosalia created an award- | e. to continue            |
| 6. she sings in              | f. only in Spanish        |
| 7. three music               | g. 13 different languages |
| 8. The trend is likely       | h. example                |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260316-english-language-music-5.html>

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ of rock 'n' roll in the 1950s, songs from the USA and UK have (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Both countries benefited a lot from hit songs with English lyrics. However, the dominance of English-language songs (3) \_\_\_\_\_ from non-English songs. This is according to the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Spotify. The company said English-language music was losing its stranglehold. There has been a huge demand for (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish, Korean, Arabic, and other languages. The number of non-English songs in the charts more (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the past five years.

A prime example of (7) \_\_\_\_\_ non-English songs is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Puerto Rican singer Bad Bunny. He sings only in Spanish. He was Spotify's most streamed artist in 2025. Meanwhile, Spanish artist Rosalia (9) \_\_\_\_\_-winning album on which she sings in 13 different languages. Spotify said (10) \_\_\_\_\_ have seen their chart (11) \_\_\_\_\_ 30 per cent or more in the past five years. These are Brazilian Funk, K-pop, and Trap Latino. The music website NME said: "The (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to continue growing further into 2026."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2603/260316-english-language-music-5.html>

Since the start of rock'n'roll in the 1950s, songs from the USA and UK have dominated music charts. Both countries benefited a lot from hit songs with English lyrics. However, the dominance of English-language songs is under threat from non-English songs. This is according to the music streaming giant Spotify. The company said English-language music was losing its stranglehold. There has been a huge demand for songs sung in Spanish, Korean, Arabic, and other languages. 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 Puerto Rican singer Bad Bunny. He sings only in Spanish. He was Spotify's most streamed artist in 2025. Meanwhile, Spanish artist Rosalía created an award-winning album on which she sings in 13 different languages. Spotify said 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. The music website NME said: "The trend is likely to continue growing further into 2026."

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Songs with non-English lyrics are becoming more popular – 16th March 2026*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

