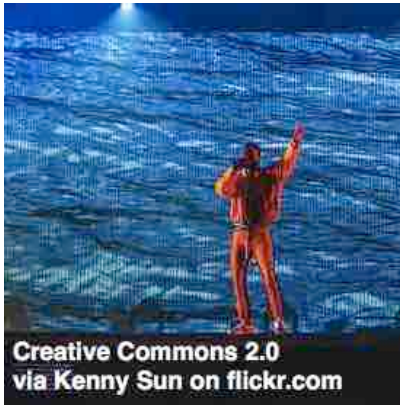


## Kendrick Lamar wins Pulitzer Prize for music

20th April, 2018



The American rapper and songwriter Kendrick Lamar has become the first non-classical or jazz musician to win the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for music. The annual award is given to musicians who have created a "distinguished musical

composition". Lamar won it for his album "DAMN". The 30-year-old Lamar wrote and rapped about the reality of life as a black man in the USA. He wrote songs like "Alright" and "The Blacker the Berry". These have become very well known since the police shootings of many black people in America. The Pulitzer board said the album was a "virtuosic song collection" that captured "the modern African-American life". Mr Lamar has not yet commented on his award.

The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in journalism, literature, and musical composition. It started in 1917 to honour news reporting. The first prize for musical composition was awarded in 1943. Kendrick Lamar is the first rapper to win the award and the most commercially successful musician to receive it. The prize is usually given to classical musicians. The Pulitzer committee said: "We are very proud of this selection. It means that...the best work was awarded a Pulitzer Prize." It added: "It shines a light on hip-hop in a completely different way." Sky News said: "Lamar has won...for his deep lyrical content...and his profound mix of hip hop, spoken word, jazz, soul, funk, poetry and African sounds."

Sources: sky.com / rollingstone.com / nytimes.com

## Writing

Rap is one of the best forms of music. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

rapper / songwriter / classical / jazz / reality / police / shootings / song collection / award / achievement / journalism / literature / musician / proud / hip-hop / poetry

## True / False

- Kendrick Lamar is the first non-classical musician to win the prize. T / F
- Mr Lamar won the prize for one of his songs. T / F
- Police shootings in the USA made Lamar's songs better known. T / F
- Kendrick Lamar said he was very happy with the award. T / F
- The Pulitzer Prize is only for journalism and music composition. T / F
- The Pulitzer Prize for music started after the one for journalism. T / F
- The Pulitzer Prize committee was proud of its choice of winner. T / F
- A news channel said Lamar mixed rap with African sounds and jazz. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>musician</b>    | a. given        |
| 2. <b>prestigious</b> | b. spoken about |
| 3. <b>reality</b>     | c. selection    |
| 4. <b>collection</b>  | d. blend        |
| 5. <b>commented</b>   | e. leading      |
| 6. <b>literature</b>  | f. pleased      |
| 7. <b>awarded</b>     | g. performer    |
| 8. <b>proud</b>       | h. totally      |
| 9. <b>completely</b>  | i. truth        |
| 10. <b>mix</b>        | j. writing      |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Who do you think should get a music award?
- Is classical music better than rap music?
- How does hip-hop influence your country's culture?
- What are the similarities between rap and poetry?
- How important are deep lyrics?
- Who is the best rapper in history?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Lamar?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. the first non-classical or
  2. created a distinguished musical
  3. Lamar wrote and rapped about the reality
  4. captured the modern African-American
  5. Mr Lamar has not yet commented
  6. an award for achievements
  7. the most commercially successful
  8. The prize is usually given to
  9. It shines a light on hip-hop in a completely
  10. Lamar has won for his deep
- a. of life as a black man
  - b. lyrical content
  - c. on his award
  - d. classical musicians
  - e. musician to receive it
  - f. jazz musician to win
  - g. different way
  - h. life
  - i. in journalism
  - j. composition

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you know about Kendrick Lamar?
- b) How important is it to hip-hop that a rapper got this award?
- c) What do you think of rap?
- d) How good is this album to beat all other kinds of music?
- e) What do you think about what Mr Lamar raps about?
- f) Should all music be about real life and important issues?
- g) What do you know about police shootings in America?
- h) Would you like to listen to the album?

## Spelling

1. journalism, ertuialtre, and musical composition
2. the most commercially euulscscfs
3. usually given to acaclslsi musicians
4. We are very proud of this ioletnsce
5. in a yecploemlt different way
6. funk, teoyrp and African sounds
7. The American rapper and nserwrtgoi
8. The alnaun award
9. the ityrlea of life as a black man
10. since the police isotsnogh
11. urecpatd "the modern African-American life
12. Mr Lamar has not yet mcementod

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. c	5. b
6. j	7. a	8. f	9. h	10. d

## Role Play

### Role A – Hip-Hop

You think hip-hop is the best music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds of music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): jazz, classical or folk.

### Role B – Jazz

You think jazz is the best music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds of music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): hip-hop, classical or folk.

### Role C – Classical

You think classical is the best music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds of music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): jazz, hip-hop or folk.

### Role D – Folk

You think folk is the best music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds of music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): jazz, classical or hip-hop.

## Speaking – Music

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- classical
- country
- electro
- folk
- hip-hop
- jazz
- soul
- funk

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.