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## **Level 5**

### **Jay Z receives top songwriting honor**

**19th June, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170619-jay-z-5.html>

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

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170619-jay-z-5.html>

The rapper Jay Z has been rewarded for his work and songwriting. He becomes the first hip-hop artist to be admitted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. The Hall's mission is to, "preserve, honor and celebrate the legacy of the great songwriters whose work has enriched the world's culture". Jay Z grew up in a poor area of New York. He got into hip-hop and became one of the best-selling musical artists of all time. He has sold more than 100 million albums worldwide. He is also a successful businessman. He owns a sports bar in New York and the music streaming service Tidal.

Barack Obama talked about his admiration for Jay Z. He said: "I am a fan and I've been listening to Jay Z since I was a young and hungry state senator. I'm pretty sure I'm still the only president to listen to Jay Z's music in the [White House]." Mr Obama said Jay Z is a "true American original" because of his contribution to American culture. He said Jay Z is the "greatest rapper of all time". Jay Z's music publisher accepted the award for him. It said: "[Jay Z] would tell up-and-coming hip-hop artists today that there can be no mistake or question that you are indeed songwriters."

Sources: <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/obama-honors-jay-z-songwriters-hall-fame-n773371>  
<http://www.npr.org/sections/therecord/2017/06/16/533200940/barack-obama-honors-jay-z-at-songwriters-hall-of-fame-gala>  
<http://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/hip-hop/7833651/jay-z-inducted-songwriters-hall-of-fame>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170619-jay-z-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jay Z has been rewarded         | a. 100 million albums  |
| 2. the first hip-hop artist to     | b. great songwriters   |
| 3. celebrate the legacy of the     | c. in a poor area      |
| 4. enriched the world's            | d. artists of all time |
| 5. grew up                         | e. into hip-hop        |
| 6. He got                          | f. for his work        |
| 7. one of the best-selling musical | g. culture             |
| 8. He has sold more than           | h. be admitted         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Obama talked about his               | a. to Jay Z's music  |
| 2. since I was a young and hungry state | b. hip-hop artists   |
| 3. the only president to listen         | c. culture           |
| 4. Jay Z is a true                      | d. admiration        |
| 5. his contribution to American         | e. of all time       |
| 6. the greatest rapper                  | f. senator           |
| 7. up-and-coming                        | g. mistake           |
| 8. there can be no                      | h. American original |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170619-jay-z-5.html>

The rapper Jay Z has been rewarded (1) \_\_\_\_\_ and songwriting. He becomes the first hip-hop artist (2) \_\_\_\_\_ into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. The Hall's mission is to, "preserve, honor and celebrate (3) \_\_\_\_\_ great songwriters whose work has enriched the world's culture". Jay Z grew (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of New York. He got into hip-hop and became (5) \_\_\_\_\_ best-selling musical artists of all time. He has sold more than 100 million albums worldwide. (6) \_\_\_\_\_ successful businessman. He owns a sports bar in New York and the music streaming service Tidal.

Barack Obama (7) \_\_\_\_\_ admiration for Jay Z. He said: "I am a fan and I've been listening to Jay Z (8) \_\_\_\_\_ young and hungry state senator. I'm pretty (9) \_\_\_\_\_ only president to listen to Jay Z's music in the [White House]." Mr Obama said Jay Z is a "true American original" (10) \_\_\_\_\_ contribution to American culture. He said Jay Z is the "greatest rapper of all time". Jay Z's music publisher accepted (11) \_\_\_\_\_. It said: "[Jay Z] would tell up-and-coming hip-hop artists today that there can be no mistake or question that (12) \_\_\_\_\_ songwriters."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170619-jay-z-5.html>

The rapper Jay Z has been rewarded for his work and songwriting. He became the first hip-hop artist to be admitted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. The Hall's mission is to "preserve, honor and celebrate the legacy of the great songwriters whose work has enriched the world's culture". Jay Z grew up in a poor area of New York. He got into hip-hop and became one of the best-selling musical artists of all-time. He has sold more than 100 million albums worldwide. He is also a successful businessman. He owns a sports bar in New York and the music streaming service Tidal. Barack Obama talked about his admiration for Jay Z. He said: "I am a fan and I've been listening to Jay Z since I was a young and hungry state senator. I'm pretty sure I'm still the only president to listen to Jay Z's music in the [White House]." Mr Obama said Jay Z is a "true American original" because of his contribution to American culture. He said Jay Z is the "greatest rapper of all time". Jay Z's music publisher accepted the award for him. It said: "[Jay Z] would tell up-and-coming hip-hop artists today that there can be no mistake or question that you are indeed songwriters."

# RAP MUSIC SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1706/170619-jay-z-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about rap music 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) \_\_\_\_\_

