

AAE Pop Quiz

1. Many people have argued that “Juneteenth” should be a national holiday. When is Juneteenth, and what does it celebrate?
June 19th (1865) – celebrates “General Order No. 3”, which announced the total emancipation of all slaves (in Texas, and by extension, the Confederacy). The Emancipation Proclamation (Jan 1, 1863) only freed slaves in rebel states (so excluding Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware, Missouri). Lee surrendered in April, but the Texas Army of the Trans-Mississippi didn’t surrender until June 2nd. Union General Granger arrived Galveston June 18th, and announced General Order 3 on the 19th. Add: history of asking for it as a national holiday, differences in rights btw GO3 and EP.
2. What is “reading” and why does it help to have receipts?
Telling someone what you think of them, and receipts are proof / evidential support.
3. What is “the kitchen”, and where is it?
The hair at the nape of your neck
4. What is “the talk”?
The talk many African American parents have with their children to prepare them for dealing with White authority (esp. cops)
5. Translate these sentences to MAE:
 - a. Obama be steady grinding
Obama is regularly working hard
 - b. I like my baby hair with baby hair and afros
I like my baby’s hair with baby hair wispies and afros
 - c. It’s hotter dennamug.
It’s hotter than a mother fucker (intuitions about how to spell ‘dennamug’ vary widely)
6. Translate these sentences to AAVE:
 - a. She’s had that dress for a really long time
She BIN (done) had that dress
 - b. I asked Boots if he knows how to play basketball
I aks Boots do he know how to play basketball
 - c. I’m going to go to the store.
I finna go to the store.

7. Put a check mark by all the following sentences that are grammatical in AAVE.

- a. ☐ There's a unicorn in the garden. MAE
- b. ☐ It's a unicorn in the garden.
- c. ☐ She's after spilling the milk. Irish English construction denoting "hot news item"
- d. ☐ Before you know it, he be done aced that test.
- e. ☐ Yesterday, he actin silly. Violates present tense constraint (although, see Cukor-Avila for some counter examples)
- f. ☐ Today, he actin silly.
- g. ☐ He no fool. Violates negation constraint against copula deletion
- h. ☐ Ain't nobody think the way we does. Leveling in the wrong direction
- i. ☐ I didn't thought I could do that.
- j. ☐ I ain't thought I could do that.
- k. ☐ I ain't think I could do that.
- l. ☐ They house is around the corner.
- m. ☐ She house is around the corner. Should be "huh house is around the corner"
- n. ☐ We put us names on us paper. Yorkshire English construction
- o. ☐ She be my sister. Violates habituality (is stative) – though see Alim for some counter examples
- p. ☐ She don't be sick, do she?
- q. ☐ When we play hockey, she be on my team.
- r. ☐ If he was a girl, he will be really pretty. Nigerian English construction
- s. ☐ The dogs barks.
- t. ☐ Here go the pencil you asked for.