

## AAE Pop Quiz

1. Many people have argued that “Juneteenth” should be a national holiday. When is Juneteenth, and what does it celebrate?

The day enslaved people in Texas were told they were free (June 19, 1865), through “General Order No.3”– Emancipation Proclamation (January 1, 1863) only freed slaves in Confederate states (so Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware, Missouri were allowed to keep slaves); Texas was isolated geographically, so news of Lee’s surrender (April 1865) travelled slowly, and the Trans-Mississippi Army didn’t surrender until June 2. June 18, union general Granger came and on June 19 he read “General Order No. 3”. Celebrations date to 1866, and there have been pushes for Juneteenth to be recognized as a national holiday since at least the early 1920s. Juneteenth was finally recognized as a national holiday in 2021.

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2. What’s the next line of this song: “Lift every voice and sing ...”

Till earth and heaven ring

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3. What is “reading” and why does it help to have receipts?

Telling someone what you think of them (usually negative) – evidence to back up your thoughts is good.

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4. What is “the kitchen”, and where is it?

The hair at the nape of your neck

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5. What is “the talk”?

Preparing your kids for interacting with police

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6. Translate these sentences to MAE:

- a. Obama be steady grinding.

Obama is consistently/persistently working.

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- b. Mrs. Marple *been* sung in that classroom.

Mrs. Marple sang in that classroom a long time ago.

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- c. She come telling me to wash the dishes.

She came and told me to wash the dishes (“come telling” conveys indignance)

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7. Translate these sentences to AAVE:

- a. She’s had that dress for a really long time.

She *been* (done) had that dress.

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- b. I asked Boots if he knows how to play basketball.

I aks Boots do he know how to play basketball.

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- c. He’s going to go to the store.

He finna go to the store.

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

- a. ☐ I don't know what he be doing right now. (violates habituality)
- b. ☐ When we play basketball, she be on my team.
- c. ☐ She be my sister. (for most AAE varieties, this violates habituality – though, see Alim for counterexamples in some urban AAE (I be X))
- d. ☐ She house is around the corner. (violates possessiveness, should be “her house”)
- e. ☐ That bus be late, but it's on time today.
- f. ☐ They house is down the block.
- g. ☐ Today, he actin' silly.
- h. ☐ Yesterday, he actin' silly. (violates present tense for copula deletion – though see Cukor-Avila for some counterexamples in Texas)
- i. ☐ I no fool. (violates restriction against negation – though see Cukor-Avila, Texas)
- j. ☐ Before you know it, he be done aced the tests.
- k. ☐ Ain't nobody think the way we does. levelling in the wrong direction: he do – good, we does – bad)
- l. ☐ Then I had went outside.
- m. ☐ I didn't thought I could do that.
- n. ☐ I ain't thought I could do that.
- o. ☐ I ain't think I could do that.
- p. ☐ If he was a woman, he will be pretty. (Nigerian English)
- q. ☐ She calls herself dancing.
- r. ☐ There's a unicorn in the garden. (MAE)
- s. ☐ It's a unicorn in the garden.
- t. ☐ They's a unicorn in the garden.
- u. ☐ Do rain, don't it? (Southwestern England)
- v. ☐ Yesterday I run fast.
- w. ☐ We put us names on us paper. (Yorkshire England)
- x. ☐ We're just after eating. (Irish English “hot news item”)