

Grammar -

1) The pronominal system

- The pronominal system of SE has a three-way distinction of person, singular/plural and gender. Compared to JC there are a lot of differences.

Singular Plural

1 mi wi

2 yu unu

3 im(s/he) dem

i(it)

- gender is lacked; except for a distinction between 'common' and 'neuter' in 3rd person
- SE pronouns are marked for case; there must be distinguished between I and me, him/her from he/she, they from them
- These distinctions do not exist in the JC system;
im can be translated he/him/she/her
wi can be translated us
dem can be translated they/them

- possessive pronouns like my, your, his, her, its, our, their are lacking in JC
- simple pronouns like shown above function as possessive pronouns

mi buk	my book
yu buk	your book
dem buk	their book

2) Tense and aspect marking

- in SE past tense is either marked with the suffix -ed or -t, by a sound change like sing sang or are identical with the present form like put or hit
- aspect refers to it's (tense) completion or non-completion; i.e. I am walking (imperfective, non complete); I have walked (perfective, complete)
- aspect is expressed by using auxiliary verbs like be or have
- tense/aspect system of JC is fundamentally unlike that of English
- there are 2 preverbal particles: en and a
- they are no verbs; they are simply invariant particles which cannot stand alone like the English 'to be'
- their functions differs also from the English
en is called a 'tense indicator'
a is called the 'aspect marker'
- there are no morphological marked past tense forms corresponding to English

Mi ron	I run (habitually); I ran
Mi a ron	I am running
Mi ena (en+a) ron	I was running

Mi en ron

I have run; I had run

3) Plural Marking

- plural in English is marked on most nouns, except of personal names and nouns referring to uncountable masses

- JC doesn't mark the plural of nouns, except of animate nouns; those are followed by the affix –dem

di wuman-dem

the women

di tiicha-dem

the teachers

4) Use of the copula

the JC particle a is required e.g.: Mi a rait ® I am writing

the JC equative verb is also a e.g.: Mi a di tiicha ® I am a teacher

JC has a separate locative verb de e.g.: Wi de a London ® We are in London

with true adjectives in JC no copula is needed; adjectives are a special class of verbs e.g.: Mi taiad nou ® I am tired now

5) Negation

- JC negator 'no' used in present

Wi no de a London ® We are not in London

Mi naa (no +a) ron ® I'm not running

- 'neba' or 'neva' used only in past

Mi neba nuo dat ® I didn't know that

Nobadi neva sii im ® Nobody never saw him

6) Prepositions

- JC uses the preposition a where English would often use in, at or to

Mi de a yaad ® I am in the yard

Im de a skuul ® He is at school

Im waant to go a skuul ® He wants to go to school

**Max an Marris - Two rude bway
Seven diffrant badness weh dem do**

Lissen now, som pickney bad:
Two bway rude so tell dem mad!
All me talk a suo-so truut:
Max an Marris in dem yout
neva stody, troble teacha,
neva pay no mine to preacha.
Dem so fiesty in dem ways
fi-dem mout should wash wid Jeyes.
Coke-nat saafa dan dem head;
school mean notten to de dread.
Was'e a time fi stody book
when a rudeness yuh a look.
School an church a ignarange
when mango-time bring you chance.
Climb tree tief aringe an plom -
bot in school dem deaf an bomb.

**Goh back ah mi yaad.
By Kerri-Ann M. Smith**

Mi come ah dis ya country,
Weh life jus ruff an' hard.
Sometimes mi jus waan pack mi bag
An' goh back ah mi yaad.

Mi miss mi granny cornmeal pone,
And mi good Sunday dinner feast.
Mi tiyad fi nyam left ova food
Lawd, dis ya foreign is a beast!

Mi long fi eat a Easta bun
And piece ah di yellow cheese.
Mi long fi jus siddung outta door
And enjoy some nice cool breeze.

Mi cyaah tell when laas mi fly a kite!
Or walk inna di midday sun!
Mi long fi kick back inna di shade
And enjoy some nice white rum.

Mi waan fi goh back ah mi yaad.
Mi waan goh weh life sweet again.

Mi waan fi coom outta di col',
Mi and dis yah country nah goh blen'.

Dem claim seh betta days soon to come,
But ah 10 years and mi noh see dem yet.
Ah time fi mi pack up mi bag and pan
And goh home 'fore mi dead from regret!

Mi noh care hoo much shot ah bus ah
Mountainview!
Mi wi tek heed and watch mi guard.
But be it eva so violent and corrupted
Noweh noh betta dan yaad!

**But See Ya!
By Margaret Bailey**

Terrorists bomb up London,
Now dem a sey is somebody from our
island,
Dat is wan longo-lala story if I ever heard
one,
Dey need to read about Jamaica and get wid
de program,
De only ting we knoe bout bomb,
Is fi light up star light when Christmas
come,
But see ya!

A we dem get dese jokers from,
Jamaicans are self-respecting people,

Who have better things to do than stoop to
evil,
If it turns out to be a country man,
I bet yu, im grow up inna wan foreign land,
Jamaica people just trying fi get by,
Dem only reaching far dem pie inna de sky,
But see ya!

JC - SE Examples	in intervocalic position written as dd/tt :	vowel length sth. manifested by double vowels:	simplification of final consonants:	idiosyncratic (special) spelling:
d,t th dem - them	fedda - feather	gaan - gone	an - and	* of long vowels :
wid - with	notten - nothing	aaf - off	roun - round	laud - lord
tree - three	o(//) troble - trouble	waata - water	secan - second	yuh - you , but also rude, school, piece, tease (in JC)
truut - truth	stody - study	caad - card		* of other words :
	a sarrow - sorrow	yaad - yard , but also talk,all,small (in JC)		wuss - worse
	cack - cock			tun -turn
	bady - body			gal - girl
	fram - from			ketch - catch
				lissen - listen
				dung - down
				respeck - respect