

“Double Dutch Bus” and Izz Latin

Listen to the song “Double Dutch Bus,” which was released by Frankie Smith in 1981. Here is a link: <https://youtu.be/fK9hK82r-AM>

Listen again to the section between 1:38 and 2:35. Can you understand what is being said in this part?

This section makes use of a language game called Ghetto Pig Latin, Izz Latin, Carnival Latin, or -izzle. Here is a transcript of what is said:

Hillzey gilzirls, yilzall hilzave t' milzove illzout the wizay silzo the gilzuys can plilzay bilzasket bilzall

I say whilzat? Nilzo yilzou ilzain't

Yilzall bilzetter milzove!

I say wilzat? Wilze ilzain't milzoving

Shilzu-gilzar! Wilzy nilzot, bilzaby?

Wilze ilzare plilzayin' dilzouble dilzutch! Dilzouble dilzutch. Dilzouble dilzutch. (repeat)

Milzee gilzot silzome-bilzody plilzays dilzouble dilzutch

Whilzo?

My gilzirl!

Brilzing her ilzin!

Ilzo kilzay

Ilzall rilzight

Ilzo kilzay

Ilzall rilzight! Nilzow wilze wilzill silzee!

On the next page is a “translation” into regular English.



Hey girls! You have t' move out the way so the guys can play basketball
I Say what? No you ain't
Y'all better move!
I say what? We ain't moving
Sugar! Why not, baby?
We are playin' double dutch, double dutch, double dutch (repeat)
Me got somebody plays double dutch
Who?
My girl
Bring her in!
OK
All right
OK
All right. Now we will see

Can you tell what the pattern is? Look at the original and the “translation” and try to figure it out. Here are some hints to guide you if you need them:

After the first consonant sound, add ils or izz. Do this for each syllable of the word.

1. How do you say “hey” in Izz Latin?
2. How do you say “girls”?

If a word starts with a vowel, you can simply add ilz or izz to the very beginning.

3. How do you say “OK” in Izz Latin?

Now, try translating some new words from Izz Latin.

4. Near the end of the song, the singer says some common names in Izz Latin. Match each name with its Izz Latin version:

Bilzarbra	Barbara
Milzary	Betty
Bilzetty	Bobby
Pilzam	Mary
Tilzommy	Pam
Tilzerrance	Terrance
Bilzobby	Tommy

5. The rapper Snoop Dogg teamed up with entertainer Jimmy Kimmel to produce a series of videos called “Plizzanet Earth.” What does “Plizzanet” mean?



by Lindsay Marean



Now it's your turn to make up some Izz Latin. Below, write a sentence in "regular" English.

Now figure out how to say your sentence in Izz Latin.

Share your sentence in Izz Latin with your classmates. How many people can figure out what you said?

