

“Ain’t Got No”, “I Got Life” by Lisa Simone

Lesson Plan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xbUx44mKpA>

Level: A2/ B1

Time: 30- 40 minutes

- 1) Introduce the musical “Hair”, the two songs, Nina Simone and Lisa Simone
 - a. Elicit any information students might know about them.
 - b. Tell them briefly about them, you do not want to bore them! You can check Wikipedia or the blog entry to find the hyperlinks with background information.
- 2) Explain “Ain’t Got No” (the contraction and the ungrammatical negative), and “I Got Life” (the omission of “have”).
- 3) Watch the video (5’:07’’)
 - a. Fill-in the gaps.
 - b. Compare answers in pairs.
 - c. Listen again.
 - d. Check gaps as a class.
 - e. Discuss any other difficult words.
- 4) Comments
 - a. “Do you like the song and the performance?” (Raise your hands those who do)
 - b. What is the song about? (if you do not have much time, you can skip this question).
 - c. Explain that “Ain’t Got No” is sung by three members of a hippie tribe, who are poor and have no jobs, whereas “I Got Life” is sung by the leader of the hippie gang, (George Berger), who sneaks into the formal private dinner party of a girl, Sheila Franklin, the daughter of an affluent family, they have recently met riding a horse in a park.
 - d. Show them the original videos of the two songs in the film, to let them see the choreography, and the flavour of the scenes and elicit some comments:

“I Ain’t Got No”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bV0UxhODFk>

“I Got Life”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-WgDKwzLxo>