

Ain't got no / I've got life



I ain't got no ¹ home, ain't got no shoes
 Ain't got no ² _____, ain't got no class
 Ain't got no skirts, ain't got no ³ _____
 Ain't got no ⁴ _____, ain't got no beer
 Ain't got no man
 Ain't got no ⁵ _____, ain't got no culture
 Ain't got no ⁶ _____, ain't got no schooling
 Ain't got no love, ain't got no ⁷ _____
 Ain't got no ⁸ _____, ain't got no token
 Ain't got no god

What have I got?
 Why am I alive anyway?
 Yeah, what have I got
 Nobody can take away?



I've got my hair, got my ⁹ _____
 I've got my brains, got my ¹⁰ _____,
 I've got my eyes, got my ¹¹ _____
 I've got my ¹² _____, I've got my smile
 I've got my ¹³ _____, got my chin
 I've got my neck, got my ¹⁴ _____
 I've got my heart, got my soul
 I've got my back, I got my self
 I've got my ¹⁵ _____, got my hands,
 I've got my fingers, got my ¹⁶ _____
 I've got my feet, got my ¹⁷ _____
 I've got my liver, got my blood
 I've got life, I've got my freedom
 I've got life
 I've got life
 And I'm gonna keep it
 I've got life
 And nobody's gonna take it away

▲ Pop songs often use words and phrases which are slang or are not grammatically correct.

a Match the words and phrases.

In songs

- 1 I ain't (rich)
- 2 I ain't got no (money)
- 3 I wanna (be free)
- 4 I'm gonna (leave you)
- 5 Yeah
- 6 'cos / 'cause

Grammatically correct

- a I don't have
- b I'm going to ...
- c because
- d I'm not ...
- e I want to ...
- f Yes

b Look at the pictures in the song which show the missing words. What can you see?

c Listen and complete the song.

Glossary

- class = (in this context) style
- culture = (in this context) knowledge about art and literature, etc.
- schooling = education
- token = a piece of paper or plastic that you can use to buy things
- soul = the spiritual part of a person
- liver = the part of your body that cleans your blood
- blood = the red liquid that flows through your body
- freedom = the noun from *free*

Song facts

Ain't got no / I got life was originally recorded by Nina Simone in 1968. It was an adaptation of two songs from the 1960s musical *Hair* and it became one of her most popular songs.