

**I WANNA BE LIKE YOU** by Robert B. Sherman and Richard M. Sherman
Performed by Big Bad Voodoo Daddy**A summary lesson for *Understanding and Using English Grammar*,
3rd Edition (Chapters 1, 12, 14)****Notes for the Teacher****1. The Song**

Do a search on the Internet to find the song “I Wanna Be like You” by Robert Sherman and Richard Sherman. When you search, be sure to include the title and the name of the artist.

2. Song background

You are going to hear a swing song, “I Wanna Be like You.” Swing music was originally popular in the 1930s and 1940s, but it had a revival in the 1990s with bands like Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. Big Bad Voodoo Daddy formed in 1989 and became famous when their music was featured in the 1996 movie *Swingers*.

This song is from the 1967 Walt Disney movie *The Jungle Book*, which was based on short stories by Rudyard Kipling. In the movie, a young boy named Mowgli grows up in the jungle by himself. He comes across the king of the apes, King Louie. King Louie tries to convince Mowgli to give him the secret of fire so that he can become powerful. Big Bad Voodoo Daddy gave the song a swinging feel.

3. Grammar background

Explain to your students that they will find many grammar forms that they have already studied in *Understanding and Using English Grammar*.

Before you listen, review these topics:

- tenses: [simple present](#), [simple past present progressive](#), [present perfect](#) (Chapter 1, page 2)
- [noun clauses with question words](#) (Chapter 12, page 240)
- [noun clauses with *that*](#) (Chapter 12, page 248)
- [gerunds after prepositions](#) (Chapter 14, page 299)

Point out to students that the song uses the informal form of “I want to:”

I want to be like you.
(is said as)
I wanna be like you.

Explain to students that this pronunciation is OK in informal speech, but they should not use this spelling in their writing.



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4. Vocabulary

These are just some of the words you may want to discuss during your lesson.

- **V.I.P.:** Very Important Person
- **man cub:** This is the phrase that the ape-king uses to refer to the boy Mowgli.
- **stroll:** walk in a relaxed way
- **monkey around:** play around
- **mess with someone:** fool someone



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Student Worksheet

While you listen

1. Listen to the song once.
2. Now listen again and focus on the lines that say, "I wanna." Write down these lines, but change the "wanna" to "want to."
3. Now listen again and focus on the grammar. Listen for infinitives or gerunds. Write down the ones that you hear. Share your list with another student. If your partner's list includes words that you didn't hear, listen again. Try to hear the infinitives or gerunds that your partner heard.

After you listen

1. Things to think about and discuss

In pairs, small groups, or as a whole class, share your answers to these questions:

- The ape king says that he is at the top, but he had to stop. What does he mean?
- Why would it be useful for the ape king to have fire?

2. Grammar

Work with a partner. Look at the text. See how many of these you can find:

- a verb in the present perfect
- three noun clauses with question words
- one noun clause where *that* is omitted!
- a negative command
- a gerund following a preposition
- many examples of *want* + infinitive
- the modal *have to* in the past tense



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3. Speaking & Writing

In pairs, small groups, or as a whole class, share your responses to the following:

Think of someone that you admire. Talk about this person. Explain why you admire him or her.

Write a paragraph about this person. Explain why you want to be like him or her.