



## YOU GOTTA BE by Des'ree

### A lesson on expressing necessity: *have got to* (Chapter 7)

#### Notes to the Teacher

##### 1. The Song

Do a search on the Internet to find the song “You Gotta Be” by Des'ree. When you search, be sure to include the title and the name of the artist.

##### 2. Song background

Des'ree is a pop star from London, England. Her parents were from the Caribbean, so she learned about island music from them. Des'ree recorded many songs during the 1990s, but this song, “You Gotta Be,” is her most popular song. In fact, the album with this song on it sold over 1.5 million copies worldwide.

In this song, Des'ree sings about qualities you need as you go through life.

##### 3. Grammar background

Explain that several different forms can be used to express necessity. Write these examples on the board:

*I have a test tomorrow, so I **must** study tonight.*

*I have a test tomorrow, so I **have to** study tonight.*

*I have a test tomorrow, so I **have got to** study tonight.*

You may want to explain to the class that all of these sentences have basically the same meaning, but they are used differently -- *must* is the most formal form; *have to* is less formal than *must*, and is often used in speech; *have got to* is also used in speech and is the most informal form. Encourage volunteers to come up with some more sentences that are examples of necessity with *must*, *have to*, and *have got to*. You or they can write them on the board.

Tell students that the forms *have to* and *have got to* are often shortened in speech. *Have to* may sound like “hafta” and *got to* may sound like “gotta.” Model the examples below and have students repeat after you.

The sentence      *You **have to** finish your vegetables.*  
may sound like    *You **hafta** finish your vegetables.*

The sentence      *You **have got to** do your homework.*  
may sound like    *You've **gotta** do your homework.*

Explain that *have got to* is shortened to *you gotta* in this song -- the verb *have* is omitted completely – “You gotta be...”

Tell students that they should not use this form in their own writing because it is too informal.



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### **4. Vocabulary**

The following is a list of some of the words you may want to discuss in your lesson.

- **unfold:** open; move forward as in a story
- **release:** let something go
- **bold:** independent, strong
- **wiser:** smarter
- **stay together:** remain calm
- **herald:** respect (in this song)
- **go on:** continue
- **pace:** speed
- **spin:** turn around quickly



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### **Student Worksheet**

#### **While you listen**

1. Listen to the song once, without looking at the words. What do you think is the main point of the song? How does the song make you feel?
2. Listen again for the use of the phrase “have got to.” The song uses the short form “gotta” nine times. Write down the words you hear after the phrase “you gotta be ....”
3. What part of speech are the words you listed in item 2?
4. Listen again for verbs in the imperative form. Write them here. Then compare your list with another student’s list.

#### **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.

- Do you think it’s true that you’ve got to be hard, tough, and strong? Why or why not?
- What do you think it means to “challenge what the future holds” and “keep your head up to the sky”?



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### Student Worksheet page 2

#### 2. Speaking & Writing

1. This song gives advice about life. Think about your philosophy of life — the things that are the most important to you. It may help to answer the following questions:

*What are the most important things in life?  
How should people face challenges in their lives?  
What goals should people have in their lives?  
What should people avoid doing in their lives?*

2. In pairs or small groups, share your answers to those questions.
3. Now imagine that you want to give a friend advice about life. Write a paragraph explaining the things that you think your friend should do and should not do. For instance, you could write:

*I think that the most important thing in life is to work hard. You should think of goals and try to achieve them. For example, you might want to become a teacher. To become a teacher, you have to succeed in school, so you have to do a lot of work ....*