

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## Obama calls Kanye West a jackass

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**

[http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye\\_west.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye_west.html)

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**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**16th September, 2009**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye\\_west.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye_west.html)

U.S. President Barack Obama has called rap star Kanye West a "jackass". He did this after the rapper jumped on stage at the MTV awards in New York. West stopped country singer Taylor Swift from making her winning speech after she won the award for best video. West told the audience he thought Beyonce's video was better. "Beyonce had one of the best videos of all time," he said. He was greeted with a chorus of boos. President Obama said: "It's like, she's getting an award, why are you butting in?"

Taylor Swift told America's ABC News Radio that Kanye called her after the awards show to apologize. She said: "He was very sincere in his apology and I accepted that apology." Even though Kanye West apologized, he damaged his image with his actions. Even the President of the USA commented on them. There are also online Kanye West apology games, like the ones about the Iraqi shoe thrower. All of this fuss is probably good for West. Any publicity for famous singers adds to their fame.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye\\_west.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye_west.html)

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. the rapper jumped on stage   | a. all time          |
| 2. making her winning           | b. of boos           |
| 3. she won the award            | c. butting in?       |
| 4. one of the best videos of    | d. for best video    |
| 5. He was greeted with a chorus | e. at the MTV awards |
| 6. Why are you                  | f. speech            |

## Paragraph 2

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Kanye called her  | a. this fuss          |
| 2. I accepted        | b. apology games      |
| 3. he damaged        | c. for famous singers |
| 4. online Kanye West | d. after the awards   |
| 5. All of            | e. his image          |
| 6. publicity         | f. that apology       |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye\\_west.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye_west.html)

U.S. President Barack Obama \_\_\_\_\_ Kanye West a "jackass". He \_\_\_\_\_ rapper jumped on stage at the MTV awards in New York. West stopped country singer Taylor Swift from making her winning speech \_\_\_\_\_ award for best video. West told the audience he thought Beyonce's \_\_\_\_\_. "Beyonce had one of the best videos of all time," he said. He was greeted with \_\_\_\_\_. President Obama said: "It's like, she's getting an award, why \_\_\_\_\_?"

Taylor Swift told America's ABC News Radio that Kanye called her \_\_\_\_\_ show to apologize. She said: "He was very sincere in his apology \_\_\_\_\_ that apology." Even though Kanye West apologized, he damaged his \_\_\_\_\_. Even the President of the USA commented on them. There \_\_\_\_\_ Kanye West apology games, \_\_\_\_\_ the Iraqi shoe thrower. All of this fuss is probably good for West. Any publicity for famous singers \_\_\_\_\_.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye\\_west.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye_west.html)

U.S. President Barack Obama has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ rap star Kanye West a "jackass". He did this after the rapper jumped (2) \_\_\_\_\_ stage at the MTV awards in New York. West stopped country singer Taylor Swift from making her winning speech (3) \_\_\_\_\_ she won the award for best video. West told the audience he thought Beyonce's video was better. "Beyonce had one of the best videos of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ time," he said. He was greeted with a chorus of boos. President Obama said: "It's like, she's getting an award, why are you butting (5) \_\_\_\_\_?"

Taylor Swift told America's ABC News Radio that Kanye called her after the awards show (6) \_\_\_\_\_ apologize. She said: "He was very sincere in his apology and I accepted that apology." Even (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Kanye West apologized, he damaged his image with his actions. Even the President of the USA commented (8) \_\_\_\_\_ them. There are also online Kanye West apology games, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the ones about the Iraqi shoe thrower. All of this fuss is probably good for West. Any publicity for famous singers adds to their (10) \_\_\_\_\_.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |             |             |              |
|-----|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) called  | (b) calling | (c) caller   |
| 2.  | (a) up      | (b) on      | (c) in       |
| 3.  | (a) after   | (b) post    | (c) then     |
| 4.  | (a) every   | (b) whole   | (c) all      |
| 5.  | (a) at      | (b) in      | (c) up       |
| 6.  | (a) for     | (b) and     | (c) to       |
| 7.  | (a) through | (b) thought | (c) though   |
| 8.  | (a) on      | (b) in      | (c) an       |
| 9.  | (a) like    | (b) likely  | (c) liked    |
| 10. | (a) famous  | (b) fame    | (c) famously |

# SPELLING

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye\\_west.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye_west.html)

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. a jsskcaa
2. jumped on tsega
3. making her winning hespce
4. the aadwr for best video
5. a hsuorc of boos
6. tuigtbn in

## Paragraph 2

7. Kanye dlleca her after
8. I accepted that ygplao
9. he damaged his megia
10. the President of the USA codmemten
11. the Iraqi shoe herwort
12. famous srnsgei

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye\\_west.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0909/090916-kanye_west.html)

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) apologize. She said: "He was very sincere in his apology and I accepted that apology." Even
- ( ) fuss is probably good for West. Any publicity for famous singers adds to their fame.
- ( ) though Kanye West apologized, he damaged his image with his actions. Even the President of the USA commented
- ( ) Taylor Swift told America's ABC News Radio that Kanye called her after the awards show to
- ( ) better. "Beyonce had one of the best videos of all time," he said. He was greeted with a chorus of
- ( ) boos. President Obama said: "It's like, she's getting an award, why are you butting in?"
- ( ) speech after she won the award for best video. West told the audience he thought Beyonce's video was
- ( ) on stage at the MTV awards in New York. West stopped country singer Taylor Swift from making her winning
- ( **1** ) U.S. President Barack Obama has called rap star Kanye West a "jackass". He did this after the rapper jumped
- ( ) on them. There are also online Kanye West apology games, like the ones about the Iraqi shoe thrower. All of this

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. The rapper jumped on stage at the MTV awards.

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2. She won the award for best video.

---

3. Beyonce had one of the best videos of all time.

---

4. He was greeted with a chorus of boos.

---

5. She's getting an award, why are you butting in?

---

6. Kanye called her after the awards show to apologize.

---

7. He was very sincere in his apology.

---

8. He damaged his image with his actions.

---

9. All of this fuss is probably good for West.

---

10. Publicity for famous singers adds to their fame.

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Kanye West. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about Kanye West. Include imaginary interviews with Kanye and President Obama. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Kanye West. Ask him three questions about his life. Give him three suggestions on what he should say to President Obama. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.