

## Gangnam Style

Have you seen it? Can you do it? What am I talking about? I'm talking about *Gangnam Style*. It's daft, fun, and it's caught people's attention around the world. The song, sung by the Korean pop artist PSY, has become an international hit. More importantly, the dance that goes with it, has caught on – big time!

Since *Gangnam Style* was released in July the video for the hit has been watched more than 700 million times – on YouTube alone and this figure is rising fast. It has more than five million 'likes' on the channel and is officially the most 'liked' on YouTube. The question is – can you dance *Gangnam Style*? You can't? I think you'd better watch the video!

The song has gone to No 1 in 28 countries. Right now PSY is the biggest pop star on the planet. The 34-year-old Korean singer is credited with getting the world dancing. PSY – short for Psycho – real name Park Jae-sang – invented Gangnam Style to mock the pretensions of Seoul's wealthy citizens who falsely associate themselves with the fashions and styles of the spraucy Gangnam district of Seoul. The area is described by some as a kind of Korean Beverly Hills. Whatever! The song has put it on the map.

Since the song's release, and its huge worldwide success, the 'King of Korean Pop' has been inundated with requests to meet the world's top leaders and pop artists. These include Barack Obama, David Cameron and UN leader Ban Ki-moon, who is also Korean. All have learned the moves of this crazy dance! PSY has also taught Madonna and Britney Spears how to Gangnam Style! We have seen flash mobs; in one case 30,000 dancing Gangnam Style! The whole thing has become a sort of cult.

Of course, mastering the dance is something to achieve. It is a sort of wide-legged strut, as if sitting on a horse, hands crossed at the wrists as though gripping the reins followed by a whipping gesture. The absurd dance is totally ridiculous but it's funny. I'll leave you to practice it in your English lesson! It'll certainly liven the lesson up – Gangnam Style!

**Category: Korean music / PSY / Gangnam style**

**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

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## EXERCISES

1. **Gangnam Style:** What is Gangnam Style? Go round the room swapping details with others.

2. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. **Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. **The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- d) **Discuss the article**

6. **Geography:** Where is **South Korea**? Draw a map on the board then look on Google maps to help you.

7. **Gangnam Style:** In pairs think of five things from the article about Gangnam Style. Then add five things you know about this. Write them below. Discuss together.

From the article	Your thoughts
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Gangnam Style**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

9. **Let's roleplay 1:** In pairs. You are in a bar in Europe. Start a conversation about: *Gangnam Style and other popular dance crazes*. *5-minutes*.

## Gangnam Style – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012

**10. Let's roleplay 1:** In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio London* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *Gangnam Style*.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | PSY  |
| 2 | A famous politician who is about to learn the dance!         |
| 3 | A famous pop music celebrity who is about to learn the dance |
| 4 | A famous DJ  |

**The teacher** will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

**11. Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

**Student A**

- 1) Name the dance!
- 2) Name the singer.
- 3) Where is Gangnam?
- 4) What is like Beverly Hills?
- 5) What has become a kind of a cult?

**Student B**

- 1) Name the pop singers.
- 2) Name the world leaders.
- 3) Explain what a flash mob is.
- 4) In how many countries has the song reached No 1?
- 5) How many times has it been watched on YouTube?

**12. Dance crazes:** In pairs think of five modern dance crazes. Then add five traditional dances. Write them below. Discuss together. Which can you do?

Modern dances	Traditional dances
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

**13. Presentation:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: ***Gangnam Style***. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. **Include the dance!**

**14. Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: ***Gangnam Style***. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

**15. Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Gangnam Style \_\_\_\_\_
- b) In 2012 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Seoul \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What types of dancing can you do?
- 3) Do you have 'two left feet' when you dance?
- 4) What is the latest dance craze at your local disco?
- 5) Do you know how to do any dances like the waltz, tango or salsa?
- 6) Will you be signing up to your local dance school?
- 7) Can you do the Gangnam Style dance?
- 8) Why is this song so popular?
- 9) Have you watched the Gangnam Style video?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) When did you first hear this song?
- 3) Can you do the dance (Gangnam Style!)? Demonstrate!\*\*
- 4) Are you a good dancer?
- 5) Are you able to do more than 'the disco jig'? Can you actually dance?
- 6) Do you dance with a partner? Explain.
- 7) Why is it that many modern dances today are without a partner?
- 8) What are the most popular dances in your country right now?
- 9) What is your favourite dance routine you can do?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

\*\*See Gangnam Style video link on page 8

## SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Dirty Dancing...

*Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

**I went to a dance school and I learnt to dance ...**

Repeat the previous things mentioned then add one more...

Forget one and you are eliminated!

The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING:

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

### Gangnam Style

Have you seen it? Can you do it? What am I talking about? I'm talking about *Gangnam Style*. It's (1)\_\_\_\_\_, fun, and it's caught people's (2)\_\_\_\_\_ around the world. The song, sung by the Korean pop artist PSY, has become an international (3)\_\_\_\_\_. More importantly, the dance that goes with it, has caught on – big time!

Since *Gangnam Style* was released in July the video for the hit has been watched more than 700 million times – on YouTube alone and this (4)\_\_\_\_\_ is rising fast. It has more than five million '(5)\_\_\_\_\_' on the (6)\_\_\_\_\_ and is (7)\_\_\_\_\_ the most 'liked' on YouTube. The question is – can you dance *Gangnam Style*? You can't? I think you'd better watch the (8)\_\_\_\_\_!

The song has gone to No 1 in 28 countries. Right now PSY is the biggest pop star on the (1)\_\_\_\_\_. The 34-year-old Korean singer is credited with getting the world dancing. PSY – short for Psycho – real name Park Jae-sang – invented *Gangnam Style* to (2)\_\_\_\_\_ the pretensions of Seoul's wealthy citizens who falsely associate themselves with the fashions and styles of the (3)\_\_\_\_\_ Gangnam district of Seoul. The area is described by some as a kind of Korean Beverly Hills. Whatever! The (4)\_\_\_\_\_ has put it on the map.

Since the songs release, and its huge worldwide (5)\_\_\_\_\_, the 'King of Korean Pop' has been inundated with requests to meet the world's top leaders and pop artists. These include Barack Obama, David Cameron and UN leader Ban Ki-moon, who is also Korean. All have learned the moves of this (6)\_\_\_\_\_ (7)\_\_\_\_\_! PSY has also taught Madonna and Britney Spears how to *Gangnam Style*! We have seen flash mobs; in one case 30,000 dancing *Gangnam Style*! The whole thing has become a sort of (8)\_\_\_\_\_.

*video*  
*officially*  
*channel*  
*attention*  
*hit*  
*likes*  
*figure*  
*daft*  
*cult*  
*dance*  
*crazy*  
*mock*  
*song*  
*planet*  
*success*  
*sprauncy*

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

*Listen and fill in the spaces.*

### Gangnam Style

Have you seen it? \_\_\_\_\_? What am I talking about? I'm talking about *Gangnam Style*. It's daft, fun, and it's caught people's attention around the world. The song, sung by the \_\_\_\_\_ PSY, has become an international hit. More importantly, \_\_\_\_\_ with it, has caught on – big time!

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## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Gangnam Style

Have (1)\_\_\_ seen it? Can you do it? What am I talking about? I'm talking about *Gangnam Style*. It's daft, fun, and it's caught people's attention around the world. (2)\_\_\_ song, sung by the Korean pop artist PSY, has become (3)\_\_\_ international hit. More importantly, the dance that goes with (4)\_\_\_, has caught on – big time!

Since *Gangnam Style* was released in July the video (5)\_\_\_ the hit has been watched more than 700 million times – (6)\_\_\_ YouTube alone and this figure is rising fast. It has more than five million 'likes' on the channel and is officially the most 'liked' on YouTube. The question is – (7)\_\_\_ you dance *Gangnam Style*? You can't? (8)\_\_\_ think you'd better watch the video!

The song has gone to No 1 in 28 countries. Right now PSY is the biggest pop star on the planet. The 34-year-old Korean singer is credited with getting the world dancing. PSY – short for Psycho – real name Park Jae-sang – invented Gangnam Style to mock the pretensions of Seoul's wealthy citizens (1)\_\_\_ falsely associate themselves with the fashions (2)\_\_\_ styles of the spraucy Gangnam district of Seoul. The area is described by (3)\_\_\_ as a kind of Korean Beverly Hills. Whatever! The song has put it on the map.

Since the song's release, and (4)\_\_\_ huge worldwide success, the 'King of Korean Pop' has been inundated (5)\_\_\_ requests to meet the world's top leaders and pop artists. (6)\_\_\_ include Barack Obama, David Cameron and UN leader Ban Ki-moon, who is (7)\_\_\_ Korean. All have learned the moves of this crazy dance! PSY has also taught Madonna and Britney Spears (8)\_\_\_ to Gangnam Style! We have seen flash mobs; in one case 30,000 dancing Gangnam Style! The whole thing has become a sort of cult.

**can**

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## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	attention	11	gripping
2	certainly	12	though
3	question	13	wrists
4	Gangnam style	14	reins
5	whatever	15	whipping
6	since	16	strut
7	absurd	17	achieve
8	gesture	18	sprauncy
9	pretensions	19	success
10	figure	20	associate

### LINKS

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bZkp7q19f0> – video link!

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gangnam\\_Style](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gangnam_Style)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/08/gangnam-style-dissected-the-subversive-message-within-south-koreas-music-video-sensation/261462/>

<http://www.metrolyrics.com/gangnam-style-lyrics-PSY.html>

**Note:** *sprauncy* - smart or showy in appearance Origin: 1950s: perhaps related to dialect *sprouncey* 'cheerful'

### ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Gangnam Style: Have you seen it? Can you do it? What am I talking about? I'm talking about *Gangnam Style*. It's **daft**, fun, and it's caught people's **attention** around the world. The song, sung by the Korean pop artist PSY, has become an international **hit**. More importantly, the dance that goes with it, has caught on – big time!

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(V2)



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