

# TUNE INTO ENGLISH

## Beyoncé's Crazy in Love



Questa canzone sul primo amore è stata premiata in varie occasioni. Vent'anni dopo la sua uscita, il pubblico internazionale continua ad ascoltarla e ad associare Beyoncé al suo ritmo.



In 2003, while still with R&B group Destiny's Child, Beyoncé released her debut solo single, the addictive *Crazy In Love*. A collaboration with her future husband, the rapper Jay-Z, the song's signature<sup>1</sup> horn<sup>2</sup> riff was sampled from a minor 1971 hit by the Chi-Lites called *Are You My Woman (Tell Me So)*. Initially, the singer dismissed<sup>3</sup> the sound as "too retro", but producer Rich Harrison managed to<sup>4</sup> persuade her that it would be a hit. He wrote the song in just two hours, after Beyoncé arrived at the studio looking dishevelled<sup>5</sup> and told him "I'm looking crazy right now". Harrison played all the instruments on the track.

The lyrics are almost completely in the present simple and are about a girl falling in love<sup>6</sup> for the first time. Her friends do not understand why she likes her new man, but as Beyoncé explained, "She's doing stuff<sup>7</sup> she wouldn't normally do, but she doesn't care." Jay-Z's contribution is a brag-gadocio<sup>8</sup> rap, boasting<sup>9</sup> about his own success.

*Crazy In Love* was the only song to top both the UK and US charts in 2003, and won two Grammy Awards. In 2018, *Rolling Stone* magazine declared it the "Greatest Single of the Millennium – so far<sup>10</sup>".



SCAN, READ & LISTEN

12

UPPER INTERMEDIATE B2

### GLOSSARY

- 1 **signature:** caratteristico, inconfondibile
- 2 **horn:** tromba
- 3 **to dismiss:** scartare
- 4 **to manage to:** riuscire a
- 5 **dishevelled:** spettinata
- 6 **to fall in love:** innamorarsi
- 7 **stuff:** roba
- 8 **braggadocio:** spacconeria
- 9 **to boast:** vantare
- 10 **so far:** finora
- 11 **to stare:** fissare
- 12 **to beg:** pregare, supplicare
- 13 **in a row:** di fila
- 14 **to blame:** incolpare
- 15 **to page:** chiamare
- 16 **to skip:** saltare
- 17 **label:** casa discografica
- 18 **to shake:** scuotersi di dosso
- 19 **phonies:** impostori
- 20 **to sling:** lasciar cadere
- 21 **to bling:** far brillare
- 22 **beret:** berretto
- 23 **deranged:** impazzito
- 24 **insane:** matto
- 25 **fur:** pelliccia
- 26 **mammals:** mammiferi
- 27 **foolish:** stupida, ingenua
- 28 **to make a fool of someone:** prendersi gioco di qualcuno
- 29 **to get someone sprung:** far saltare

Scan this QR code with your smartphone or tablet and listen to the official song on YouTube while reading the lyrics.



**who he think he is?:** the auxiliary 'does' is incorrectly omitted here.

**Young Hov/Hova:** Young Hova is a nickname Jay-Z gave himself, in reference to the God Jehovah.

**B:** a nickname for Beyoncé. She is now often called 'Queen B'.

**stick bony:** slang for 'thin'

**the ROC handle like Van Exel:** he runs his business as skilfully as NBA star Nick Van Exel plays basketball.

**Ringo:** Ringo Starr, drummer of The Beatles.

**iller:** a slang term to mean 'exceptionally good'.

**wrap:** "it's a wrap" is an idiom meaning something has concluded, especially a recording or a movie scene.

I look and stare<sup>11</sup> so deep in your eyes  
 I touch on you more and more every time  
 When you leave, I'm begging<sup>12</sup> you not to go  
 Call your name two, three times in a row<sup>13</sup>  
 Such a funny thing for me to try to explain  
 How I'm feeling and my pride is the one to blame<sup>14</sup>  
 (Yeah, yeah) 'cause I know I don't understand  
 Just how your love can do what no one else can  
 Got me looking so crazy right now (x4)  
 Got me hoping you'll page me right now, your kiss  
 Got me hoping you'll save me right now  
 Looking so crazy, your love's  
 Got me looking, got me looking so crazy in love  
 Uh oh, uh oh, uh oh, oh, no, no (x4)  
 When I talk to my friends so quietly  
 Who he think he is? Look at what you did to me  
 Tennis shoes, don't even need to buy a new dress  
 If you ain't there, ain't nobody else to impress  
 It's the way that you know what I thought I knew  
 It's the beat that my heart skips<sup>16</sup> when I'm with you  
 But I still don't understand  
 Just how your love can do what no one else can  
 Got me looking so crazy right now (x4)  
 Got me hoping you'll page me right now, your kiss  
 Got me hoping you'll save me right now (hey)  
 Looking so crazy, your love's (hey)  
 Got me looking, got me looking so crazy in love  
 I'm looking so crazy in love's  
 Got me looking, got me looking so crazy in love  
 Young 'Hov, y'all know when the flow is loco  
 Young B and the R-O-C, uh oh (oh)  
 Ol' G, big homey, the one and only  
 Stick bony, but the pocket is fat like Tony Soprano  
 The ROC handle like Van Axel  
 I shake<sup>18</sup> phonies<sup>19</sup>, man, you can't get next to  
 The genuine article, I do not sing though  
 I sling<sup>20</sup> though, if anything, I bling<sup>21</sup> yo  
 A star like Ringo, war like a Green Beret  
 Crazy bring ya whole set  
 Jay Z in the Range, crazy and deranged<sup>23</sup>  
 They can't figure him out, they like,  
 "Hey, is he insane<sup>24</sup>?"  
 Yessir, I'm cut from a different cloth  
 My texture is the best fur<sup>25</sup>, chinchilla  
 I been iller than chain smokers  
 How you think I got the name Hova?  
 I been realer, the game's over  
 fall back, Young, ever since I made the change over  
 to platinum the game's been wrap, one  
 Got me looking so crazy, my baby  
 I'm not myself, lately I'm foolish<sup>27</sup>, I don't do this  
 I've been playing myself, baby, I don't care  
 'Cause your love's got the best of me  
 And, baby, you're making a fool of me<sup>28</sup>  
 You got me sprung<sup>29</sup> and I don't care who sees  
 'Cause, baby, you got me  
 Baby, you got me (you got me so crazy, baby), hey

Fergal Kavanagh runs the website [www.tuneintoenglish.com](http://www.tuneintoenglish.com), the web's largest free resource for learning English through pop music.



**to page:** in the 1980s, before mobile phones, pagers<sup>15</sup> were used to contact people in emergencies

**ain't/ain't nobody:** 'ain't' is slang for am not/is not/are not. The double negative with nobody is incorrect.

**R-O-C:** Roc-A-Fella Records, the label<sup>17</sup> Jay-Z owned at the time.

**Ol' G, big homie:** more nicknames, meant to mean 'original gangster' or 'the boss'.

**the pockets is fat like Tony Soprano:** as rich as Tony Soprano (it should be 'the pockets are fat').

**yo:** used as an exclamation to get someone's attention.

**Green Beret<sup>22</sup>:** a member of the army, known as this for their headwear.

**cut from a different cloth:** a saying meaning 'different (usually better) than others'.

**chinchilla:** a chinchilla is a South American rodent with the densest fur of all land mammals<sup>26</sup>.

**chain smoker:** a person who smokes one cigarette after another.