

# More on Black Language: Phonology, Morphosyntax, Verbal Syntax, Aspect

Rule	Examples
<p><b><u>Phonology</u></b></p> <p>1) Non-rhotic (syllable-final /r/ is not pronounced) <i>car</i> [ka:], <i>party</i> [pa:ti] <i>other examples: playa</i></p> <p>2) Frequent deletion of final /l/, particularly after labials or word-finally with auxiliaries <i>help</i> [hep]</p> <p>3) Reduction of word-final clusters <i>test</i> [tes], <i>desk</i> [des] <i>other examples: ax for ask</i></p> <p>4) Fortition (hardening) of initial /ð/ to either [d̥] (dental stop) or [d] (alveolar stop) <i>this</i> [d̥ɪs], <i>there</i> [d̥e:]</p> <p>5) In word-final position /θ/ is frequently shifted to [f]; also found for /ð/ (&gt; [v]) in word-internal position. <i>bath</i> [ba:f], <i>teeth</i> [ti:f] <i>brother</i> [brʌvə] <i>boffum</i> for <i>both of them</i></p> <p>6) The distinction between short /ɛ/ and /ɪ/ is frequently lost before nasals <i>pen, pin</i> [pɪn]; <i>tent, tint</i> [tɪn]</p> <p>7) Strong initial stress is often found with words of two syllables <i>police</i> [ˈpo:lɪs], <i>define</i> [ˈdi:fain]</p>	
<p><b><u>Morphology and Syntax</u></b></p> <p>1) Multiple negation <i>I ain't gon give nothin to nobody.</i></p> <p>2) Existential <i>there</i> is replaced by <i>it</i> <i>It ain't no cute boys at this school.</i> <i>It ain't no class today.</i></p> <p>3) Plurals are not marked if preceded by numerals. <i>He here for three year now.</i></p> <p>4) The genitive is not marked with /s/ (as position is sufficient to indicate this category) <i>I drove my brother car.</i></p>	
<p><b><u>Verbal Syntax</u></b></p> <p>1) Third person singular -s is omitted. <i>She like my uncle.</i> <i>She play too much.</i></p> <p>2) Copula absence <i>She a professor.</i> <i>She a baddie.</i></p> <p>3) <i>Come</i> is grammaticalized as an auxiliary. <i>He come tellin me some story.</i> <i>Here she come startin some mess.</i></p> <p>4) <i>Like to</i> has the meaning of 'almost'. <i>She like to fell out the chair laughing so hard.</i> <i>She like to get us killt drivin like that.</i></p> <p>5) Two modals within the same verb phrase. <i>He might could do the work.</i></p>	
<p><b><u>Aspect/Tense</u></b></p> <p>1) Habitual <i>be</i> to denote ALWAYS <i>They be gettin on my nerves.</i> <i>I be up in da club.</i> <i>She be sus.</i></p> <p>2) An iterative/frequent aspect is expressed by means of <i>steady</i> or <i>stay</i>. <i>She steady talkin bout her hair.</i> <i>She stay talkin bout herself.</i></p>	

3) Stressed *been* to indicate the remote past

*We been did that.*

4) Stressed *done* to indicate the recent past

*She done lost her mind.*

*She done crashed her car.*

*She done did it this time.*

*She done crazy.*

5) An intentional aspect with the particle *a*: precedes the verb form and stresses future/immediacy (also *finna*, *gon*, *fixin to*, *bout to*)

*I'ma drive over there.*

*I'ma get something to eat.*

*I'ma do me.*

*We finna roll up.*

**Jot down notes with a partner:**

## **What does this have to do with Black Rhetoric?**

### Your Comments

- Black language communicates and influences the speech/thinking of everyone.
- The expressiveness of Black language is passed from generation to generation.
- When Black rhetors use Black Language, it is a form of protest and cultural resilience.
- Black culture evolves and moves and so does Black Language. It ain't goin nowhere.
- There is pride on BL as a cultural identity. It is a whole other language within a language.
- BL is the root of Black Rhetoric. You can't have one without the other.
- How you say it is as important as what you say.
- BL is a Black invention that allows us to connect to one another.
- Rhetoric is language and language is rhetoric.
- Black Langage creates meanings that Standardized English couldn't otherwise give.
- Specialized phrases communicate specific things.
- This is what we mean by "seasoning."