

Curious Question #7 – In Da House

Transcript

Robin: One, two, one, two. Is Harp **in da house**? Check one, two, one, two, Maura **in da house**. Is Maura **in da house**?

Maura: Hey everyone out there, this is Maura and...

Robin: And Robin.

Maura: Yes, we're here with you with the **Curious Questions** podcast where we always take one of your questions and answer it for you. The next question is a very specific one. And it must be from a very careful listener, or someone who really loves rap music. Let's first listen to the question.

Robin: *I often hear **in da house** in rap songs. What does it mean? How do you use it? Can you use it in a daily conversation?*

*For example: "Rhymester's **in da house**!"
"Yeah, all my boys are **in da house** right now!"*

Maura: That question about **in da house** was from Veerapong in Thailand.

Robin: First I want to look at **da** because if you know the most basic English you probably believe this isn't a word. And you're right.

Maura: But if we look to slang English, which has tons of possibilities, **da** is indeed a word. **Da** means **the**. They have exactly the same meaning. Like a lot of slang, you don't usually see **da** written and never in formal English.

Robin: We hear it a lot in popular songs on the radio. You can hear it in all kinds of music nowadays, but I believe it first started being used in hip hop or rap music.

Maura: So if we drop the slang accent on **da**, and we put the word **the** in its place, the expression is **in the house**. Sometimes you will hear it just like that too, **in the house**.

Robin: **House** is another word in this slang expression. It is a pretty simple word that most people learning English know, but it also has some other meanings. It can mean any building. It can also mean a theatre or a place for concerts or other performances. In this expression it has these other meanings.

- Maura: Now that we understand that **da** means **the** and **house** means any building, here is the explanation of the whole expression. It means **here** or **in the building**. We use the expression **in da house** usually after someone's name. We are saying that that person is here, or in the building. Remember: the building does not have to be an actual house.
- Robin: For example: Maura is **in da house**.
- Maura: Robin is **in da house**.
- Robin: Harp and Yoshi are **in da house**. All these simply mean that these people are here. And you see how we sounded when we said these examples for you. Our voices started to sing a bit and become more dramatic, because this is how the expression is used.
- Maura: You hear this slang expression in songs most often. When the person says **in da house** in a song, the singer or rapper is saying that the person is here. And then that person usually starts singing or rapping after they have been introduced.
- Robin: **In da house** does not have to introduce someone. It can be used more generally, simply to get people excited. At a concert, after this expression is said, often people cheer, scream or even clap.
- Maura: Also, in the example we posted in our Lipservice, the performer calls to places, like "Is New York **in da house**?" He is calling out to the people from New York or the other places he mentions.
- Robin: At a show you could hear someone ask, "Is Canada **in da house**?" And then all the Canadians would yell out that they are here.
- Maura: These are the examples of when you would most often hear this expression. Some people might use it with their friends for fun, or to get excited at a party. This is especially true for people who love hip hop. If you do not like that kind of music, you probably wouldn't use it.
- Robin: And now Harp is **in da house**.
- Harp: Thanks everyone for listening to the Curious Questions podcast. If you have any more questions please send us an email at questions@culips.com that's C-U-L-I-P-S. Thanks for listening everyone!
- Robin & Maura: Bye

Detailed Explanation

Da

Da means **the**.

Dat means **that**.

Dis means **this**.

Can you see the pattern? The **TH** becomes a **D**.

Like **da**, these slang forms are most often used in hip hop and rap or by people who enjoy that kind of music.

Another expression we use with this kind of **D** slang is **true dat**! It means that you agree that something is true.

Example:

Speaker 1: This party is really fun.

Speaker 2: **True dat**!

House

Like we saw in the podcast, **house** can mean any building. There are also other expressions that go with **house**.

To bring down the house

This is similar to **in da house** as it also is related to a theatre or a performance. If someone **brings down the house** it means that their performance was incredible and the audience, the people watching, really loved it.

Example:

The concert last night was great! He really **brought down the house**.

(Remember, **brought** is the past tense of **bring**.)

We can use **bring down the house** to talk about anyone who was really impressive to a group of people.

On the house

When something is **on the house** it means that it is free. It means that you do not have to pay, but the restaurant (the house) pays.

Example:

Waiter: Don't worry about the bill. Your meal is **on the house**.

In fact, we can use the word **on** to show who is paying.

Example:

One friend to another: Lunch is **on** Mark.
(This means that Mark is paying for lunch.)

To house

We most often use **house** as a noun and pronounce it with a soft **S**. But we can also use it as a verb. To **house** a person is **to provide them with a home or shelter**. Shelter is any kind of building or structure that protects you from the outside.

When we use **house** as a verb we pronounce the **S** as a hard **S**. It sounds more **house**.

Also as a gerund, we say **housing**. Pronounce it like **houzing**.

Example:

The city is concerned with **housing**.

There are many different ways we can use **house**. If you are still interested in more, check them out for yourself.

House/Home

One more important distinction is the difference between **house** and home. A **house** is the physical building where you live, but a **home** is more personal and special, a place where you feel safe.

Quiz (see the answers at the bottom of this Lipservice)**1. What does *in da house* mean?**

- a) In the building
- b) In the room
- c) Here
- d) All of the above

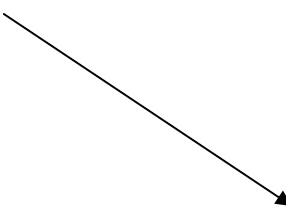
**2. Is it OK to use the expression *in da house* when you are talking to an old person, like someone's grandmother?
(circle the right answer)**

Yes No

3. Put *true* or *false* beside the following:

- a) You often hear **in da house** in rap or hip hop music. **true**
- b) If someone is **in da house** it ONLY means they are in a house. _____
- c) **Da** is a slang form of the word **the**. _____
- d) You probably won't hear an old person say **in da house**. _____

4. Match the expression with the meaning:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| a) To house (verb) | i) To have an incredible and/or impressive performance. |
| b) House (noun) | ii) To arrive somewhere, to be here. |
| c) On the house | iii) To provide someone with a home or shelter. |
| d) In da house | iv) To make something free, or to have the host pay for it. |
| e) Bring down the house | v) The place where someone lives, usually a separate building. |
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5. What does the expression *true dat* mean?

- a) That is true!
- b) No thanks!
- c) I don't know!
- d) No way!

Bonus question: What word is **dat** slang for?

Answer: _____.

6. What does it mean if someone says “Lunch is on me”?

- a) They spilled lunch on their shirt.
- b) They are inviting you to their house for lunch.
- c) They already ate lunch.
- d) They are buying lunch for you.

7. If an English friend visits you and says “I feel like home here”, what do you think they mean?

- a) I want to go home.
- b) I feel safe here, it is like I am at my house.
- c) I miss my family.
- d) I wish your home was more like my home.

Answers:

1. d

2. No. While the expression **in da house** is not offensive, you might confuse people or have people look at you in a strange way if you use it in certain situations. This expression is mostly for young people and especially for people who like hip hop and rap culture. If you say it to someone's grandmother she probably won't understand!

3. true, false, true, true

4. a-iii, b-v, c-iv, d-ii, e-i

5. a, that

6. d

7. b