

Englishman In New York (Un Anglais À New York) by Sting

Compétence principale : Compréhension écrite. Repérer des informations dans un texte écrit en anglais.

Mission 1: Complete the 10 gaps in the lyrics

I don't drink coffee I take tea my dear
Je ne bois pas de café je prends du thé mon cher
I like my toast done on the side
J'aime mon toast grillé sur le côté
And you can hear it in my accent when I talk
Et vous pouvez à mon accent lorsque je parle
I'm an Englishman in New York
Je suis un anglais à New York
See me walking down Fifth Avenue
Regardez- moi descendre la Cinquième Avenue
A walking cane here at my side
Une canne ici à mes côtés
I take it everywhere I walk
Je la prendsoù je vais
I'm an Englishman in New York
Je suis un anglais à New York

Chorus: I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien
Je suis un étranger, je suis un étranger légal
I'm an Englishman in New York
Je suis un anglais à New York
I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien
Je suis un étranger, je suis un étranger légal
I'm an Englishman in New York
Je suis un anglais à New York

If manners make the man as someone said
Si les manières font l'homme comme quelqu'un l'a dit
Then he's the hero of the day
Alors il est le héros du jour
It takes a man to suffer ignorance and smile
Cela forge un homme de tolérer l'ignorance en souriant
Be yourself no matter what they say
Sois toi-même ne t'occupe pas de

Chorus

Refrain

Modesty, propriety can lead to notoriety
Modestie, bienséance peuvent à la notoriété
You could end up as the only one
Vous pourriez finir par être le seul
Gentleness, sobriety are rare in this society
Douceur, sobriété sont rares
At night a candle's brighter than the sun
La nuit une bougie est plus le soleil

Takes more than combat gear to make a man
Il faut plus qu'une tenue de combat
.....
Takes more than a license for a gun
Il faut plus qu'un permis pour un revolver
Confront your enemies, avoid them when you can
Fais face à tes ennemis, esquivel-les.....
A gentleman will walk but never run
Un gentleman mais ne courra jamais

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Then he's the hero of the day
Alors il est le héros du jour
It takes a man to suffer ignorance and smile
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Be yourself no matter what they say
Sois toi-même ne t'occupe pas de.....

Chorus

Refrain

The origin of the song (From Wikipedia) [Sting](#) dedicated his song "[Englishman in New York](#)" (1987) to Quentin Crisp. You can see him in the song video clip.



In late 1986 Sting visited Crisp in his apartment and was told over dinner – and the next three days – what life had been like for a homosexual man in the largely homophobic Great Britain of the 1920s to the 1960s. Sting was both shocked and fascinated and decided to write the song. It includes the lines:

It takes a man to suffer ignorance and smile,
Be yourself no matter what they say.

Quentin Crisp

Sting says, "Well, it's partly about me and partly about Quentin. Again, I was looking for a metaphor. Quentin is a hero of mine, someone I know very well. He is gay, and he was gay at a time in history when it was dangerous to be so. He had people beating up on him on a daily basis, largely with the consent of the public."

Mission 2: Differences

In the streets of New York, Sting (alias Quentin Crisp) feels different from American people. In the lyrics, **underline examples of how different he feels**. Then sort out the differences into categories and **write them below**

- **His habits are different:** For example,
- **His language is different:** ...
- **His attitude and his personality are different:** ...

Mission 3: Study the chorus.

Which word is repeated 4 times? _____

What is the French for this word? _____

Does he seem happy about feeling like an alien? _____

Justify by giving an example from the song:

He says " _____ "

What message is given to "different people" by Sting? (Just quote the important advice (*conseil*) he gives them)

Mission 4: Pair work. Imagine you are walking in the streets of New-York like Sting and sing your differences!

"I am a French alien in New York!

I don't but I (language)

I (food)

..... (money)

..... (clothes)

..... (.....)"