

Writing a Parody

Have you ever heard of “Weird Al” Yankovic?



He is a master of creating funny versions of real songs. These songs are known as parodies. In this lesson, you will write your own parody. A parody is “a literary or musical work in which the style of an author or work is closely imitated for comic effect, or in ridicule.” The great thing about parodies is that they are funny, and who doesn’t love to laugh?

1. For a good example of parody, listen to/view this YouTube video of “Weird Al” performing *Eat It*. It is a parody of Michael Jackson’s song *Beat It*. You can probably also find this on Spotify, Pandora or other music listening platforms.
Here is the YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcjMnHoIBI>
2. Choose a song you already know the tune for to use for your parody. You don’t necessarily need to know all the words, but it REALLY helps if you already know how the song goes.
3. Write out or look up the real words to your song. It’s OK to use Google. This can give you some ideas on what words to change.
4. Think of a theme—“Weird Al” changed *Beat It*, a song about choosing to not be involved in a gang fight, to *Eat It*, a song about eating food. Your song can be about anything – sports, waking up in the morning, friends, etc. (school appropriate). “Weird Al” also did a parody of *Fancy* by Iggy Azalea and renamed it *Handy*. You get the idea.
Here is the YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXiwYUCe_bY&list=PLbNOM-ag-g22HZaUMqhyu9N0a7EIOHBO0&index=5&t=0s
5. You can change some or all of the original words to your song. It’s entirely up to you.
6. Write or type the words out. Try singing your words to make sure they fit the music. Make changes if you need to. Be sure it is all appropriate for everyone.
7. The Big Finish: share your new lyrics with your teacher
8. Extension: perform your new lyrics with a karaoke track (on iTunes or YouTube) for your friends and family!

REMEMBER: DON’T POST YOUR PARODY ONLINE! (COPYRIGHT LAWS EVEN COVER PARODIES)

