

Common Jamaican Patois Sayings

Jamaicans are usually saying proverbs. Which are things that generally apply in lots of different situations. Today we'll go over some **Jamaican Patois** Proverbs that are usually handed through the generations. Take these little "wisdoms" lightly and apply them in your life, when you see fit.

Here are a Colletion of Common/ Uncommon Jamaican Sayings! I Hope you enjoy them:

I'll Say the **Patois** Expression and then repeat the same Standard English expression after.

- Mi old, but mi nuh cold [Do not underestimate the value of the elderly]
- What a fi yu, cyaan be un fi yu [What is yours will always be yours]
- Who born fi heng cyaan drown [You can't control destiny]
- Play wid puppy, puppy lick yu mout [Familiarity breeds contempt]
- Every hoe have dem stik a bush [There's someone out there for everyone]
- If fish deh a river bottom an tell yu seh alligator have gum boil, believe him! [Listen to the voice of experience]
- Sorry fi mawga dog, mawga dog wi tun round bite you [Sometimes it is those whom we help who are the least grateful]
- Dawg a sweat an long hair hide it [All that glitters is not gold]
- Jamaican Saying: ole fia stick easy fi ketch. [Meaning: easy to get something that you once had it before.]
- Talk and taste your tongue [Think before you speak].
- Young bud nuh know storm [Experience teaches wisdom]
- Johncrow always tink im picney pretty [Parent always think there children are beautiful]
- heng pan nail [Looking tired]
- Man nuh dead nuh call dem duppy [Never underestimate people]
- What sweet nanny goat ago run eeh belly [That that appear too good, can hurt you]
- Fire deh a mus-mus tail him tink a cool breeze [You may be heading for trouble and don't even realize it]
- Di higher monkey climb, di more him expose himself [The higher your status, the more your vulnerabilities are exposed]
- When trouble ketch yu pickney shut fit yu [Any port in a storm]
- One, one coco full basket [Do not expect to achieve success overnight, take it slowly]
- Chicken merry; hawk deh [is] near [Be careful when things are going too good for you as its always possible that danger is around the corner]
- Every hoe ha dem tick a bush [There's that perfect someone for everyone]
- Good fowl a go a market sensei fowl pick up themself deh follow back a dem [Person with class being copied by ghetto individual.]
- Every mikkle mek a mukkule [Every little bit counts]
- De olda de moon, de brigher it shines [The older a person is, the wiser]
- Rock stone a river bottom cyaan know sun hot [He who feels it knows it]
- Gi mi sponge fi go dry up sea [Giving one an impossible task to do.]
- When puss belly full im seh rat batty bitter [People forget where they come from]
- Wanti wanti can't get it, getti getti no want it [The grass isn't always greener on the other side.]
- Puss and dawg nuh have di same luck [Some people are luckier than others]
- Every dawg has his day and every puss his 4 o'clock [Today for me, tomorrow for you]
- Cockroach nuh business inna fowl fight [Don't get involved in this that don't concerns you]
- Ole fire stick easy fi ketch [It's easy to rekindle an old romance]
- how watah walk go a punkin belly [How thing happen, what will happen (usually used as a threat)]
- Jamaican Saying: "ride & wistle" [Meaning: Be able to do more than one thing at a time, eg, talk & work]
- Mi throw mi corn, but me no call no fowl [A statement is made, the guilty party will pick it up]
- Yuh tink a one day monkey want wife? [Do think you won't need my help in the future? Never forget those who help you]
- Chicken merry, hawk deh near.[Be careful when things are going too good for you as its always possible that danger is around the corner.]
- See and Blind, Hear and Deaf [Sometimes you need to give a deaf ear, and turn a blind eye to things in order to not get involved]
- Wanti, wanti, cyan getti, getti, getti nuh want it [Count your blessings and do not take what you have for granted- others may just be hoping they had what you have]
- Hog picney sey momma momma how yuh mouth so long, momma sey by & by yuh wi si [Children questioning parents why certain things happen, mother's reply wait & you will see]
- Cock mouth kill cock [Watch your mouth, it can get in the great trouble!]
- Hog say, 'de first dutty water mi ketch, mi wash'. [Make use of the first opportunities that comes your way]
- One eye man a king in blind man country. [No matter how bad your situation seems, there is always another for whom things are worse]
- Duppy know who fi frighten [Bullies pick on those who can defend themselves the least]

And There You have it! A collection of **Jamaican Patwa** Phrases That are common and not so common. I hope you enjoyed them and I hope you apply them to Your Life!

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