

Lyrics To Who Can It Be Now

Unpacking the Mystery: A Deep Dive into the Lyrics to Who Can It Be Now

Few songs from the early 1980s have maintained their cultural resonance as powerfully as Men at Work's iconic hit, "Who Can It Be Now." From its instantly recognizable saxophone riff to its hauntingly relatable verses, the track has become a staple of classic rock radio, movie soundtracks, and nostalgic playlists. But what lies beneath the surface of this chart-topping single? The **lyrics to Who Can It Be Now** tell a story far more complex than a simple question about a visitor at the door. They delve into themes of anxiety, paranoia, and the desperate need for solitude in a world that refuses to leave us alone. This article explores the song's origins, its lyrical depth, its musical composition, and the enduring legacy that keeps listeners pressing play decades after its release.

The Birth of a Classic: Context and Creation

To fully appreciate the **lyrics to Who Can It Be Now**, it is essential to understand the environment in which they were written. Australian band Men at Work, fronted by the charismatic Colin Hay, emerged from the pub rock scene of Melbourne in the late 1970s. The band's sound was a unique blend of new wave, reggae-infused rhythms, and pop sensibility. Colin Hay, the primary songwriter, penned "Who Can It Be Now" during a period of intense personal upheaval. The song was written in a small, unassuming room where Hay was living at the time. He has often mentioned in interviews that the lyrics were inspired by a genuine feeling of being overwhelmed by external pressures—phone calls,

unexpected visitors, and the constant demands of daily life. This authenticity is what makes the song so enduring. The **lyrics to Who Can It Be Now** are not abstract poetry; they are a window into a very real state of mind.

Interestingly, the song almost didn't make it onto the band's debut album, *Business as Usual*. The record label was initially hesitant, fearing the song's paranoid tone might be too dark for mainstream radio. However, the band insisted, and the track became the second single from the album, following the global smash "Down Under." The decision proved to be a masterstroke. When listeners first heard the **lyrics to Who Can It Be Now** over the airwaves, they were instantly captivated by the tension between the upbeat musical arrangement and the anxious lyrical content.

A Line-by-Line Look at the Lyrics

The **lyrics to Who Can It Be Now** are deceptively simple, yet they pack an emotional punch. The song opens with the protagonist hearing a knock at the door. Instead of feeling excited or curious, he feels a wave of dread. The opening lines immediately establish the song's core conflict: the invasion of personal space.

"Who can it be knocking at my door? / Make no sound, tip-toe across the floor / If he hears, he'll knock all day / I'll be trapped, and here I'll have to stay."

These lines masterfully capture the feeling of being hunted in your own home. The protagonist is not just annoyed; he is genuinely afraid. He tiptoes, hoping to evade detection. The **lyrics to Who Can It Be Now**