

Basic Rasta Glossary

- Babylon: (1) The corrupt establishment, the “system”, Church and State (2) The Police, a Policeman.
- Badness: Hooligan behavior, violence for its own sake.
- Bag-o-wire: A betrayer.
- Bambu: Rolling paper.
- Bandulu: Bandit, criminal, one living by guile.
- Beast: A policeman, Beast boys: policeman’s
- Bredren: One’s fellow male Rasta
- Chalice or Chillum: A pipe for smoking herb, usually made from coconut shell and tubing, used ritually by Rasta.
- Control: To be in charge of, responsible for, to own, to take.
- Cool Running: A greetings; things are going smoothly.
- Crucial: Serious, great, “hard”; “dread”.
- Culture: Reflecting or pertaining to roots values and traditions highly respected by the Rasta.
- Darkers: Sunglasses
- Dawta: A girl, woman, “sister”, girlfriend.
- Deaders: Meat, meat by-product.
- Downpressor: Preferred term for oppressor.
- Dread: (1) A person with dreadlocks, (2) A serious idea or thing, (3) Experimentally, “awesome”, fearful confrontation of a people with primordial, but historically denied racial selfhood.
- Dreadlocks: (1) Hair that is neither combed nor cut (2) A person with dreadlocks.
- Duns, Dunsu: Money
- Feel No Way: Don’t take offense, don’t be sorry, don’t worry.
- First Light: Tomorrow
- Forward: (1) To go, Move on, Set out (2) In the future.
- Fullness: To the fullness; completely, absolutely, totally.
- Ganja: Herb, Marijuana.
- General: Cool Operator
- Groundation: Large, island-wide meeting and celebration of rasta.
- Hail: A greetings
- Hard: Excellent, proficient, skillful, uncompromising.
- Herb: Marijuana
- I: Replaces “Me”, “You”, “My”; Replaces the first syllable of selected words.
- I and I/I & I: I, Me, You and Me, We
- I-Man: I, Me, Mine
- Ire: (1) A greeting (2) Excellent, Cool, Highest.
- I-Shence: Herb
- Ism and Skism: Negative term denoting Babylon’s Classificatory Systems.
- I-Tal: Vital, Organic, Natural, Wholesome; Refers to ways of cooking and way of life.

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- Ites: (1) The Heights (2) A greeting (3) The color red.
- Ja, Jam-Down: Jamaica
- JAH: God, possibly derived as a shortened form of Yahweh or Jehovah.
- Jah Know: Lord knows.
- Lion: A righteous dread.
- Mash It Up: A huge success.
- Mash Up: Mash down: Destroy.
- More Time: See you later.
- Natty, Natty Dread, Natty Congo: (1) Dreadlocks (2) A person with dreadlocks.
- Nazarite: Ancient Hebrew meaning to “separate”, consecrated, set apart by choice and devotion.
- Niyabinghi: (1) “Death to all Black and White oppressors” (2) East African Warriors who resisted colonial domination (3) Large Rastafarian meeting and spiritual gathering (4) Referring to orthodoxy, traditional rasta (5) A variety of drumming.
- No True?: Isn’t it so?
- One Love: A parting phrase, expression of unity.
- Ranking: Highly respected.
- Respect: Highly Honored.
- Rockers: Reggae Music.
- Roots: (1) Derived from the experience of the common people, natural indigenous (2) A greeting (3) Name for a fellow rasta.
- Seen: I understand, I agree.
- Sister, Sistren: A woman, a friend, woman rastafarians.
- Skank: To dance to reggae music.
- Spliff: Large, cone-shaped marijuana cigarette.
- Star: Common term of affection, camaraderie.
- Step: To leave, to depart.
- Structure: Body, Health.
- Tam: Wool Hat.
- Transport: Vehicle.
- Uphill: Positive, Righteous.
- Vex: To get angry.
- Whole Heap: A lot.
- Ya No See it?: You Know?
- Youth: A child, a young man, an immature man.
- Zion: Ethiopia, Africa, The Rastaman/Rastafarian Holy land.

Other Source(s)

- Rasta/Patois Dictionary:<http://niceup.com/patois.html>
- Jamaican Slang Glossary Words and Phrases. Get the Book!!!!:
<http://www.speakjamaican.com/jamaican-slang-glossary.html>

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- Rastafari Patois Glossary: <http://www.assatashakur.org/forum/rastafarian-reasoning/16944-rastafari-patois-glossary.html>
- Rastafarian Words/Phrases - Jamaican Patois Dictionary: <http://jamaicanpatwah.com/dictionary/category/rastafarian>
- Rastafari Dictionary - Judah Square: <http://www.judahsquare.co.za/about-judah-square/rastafari-dictionary/>
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