



Grammar with The Winner Takes It All



The grammar topic we have connected to
this song is **modal verbs of obligation**.
Let's take a look...

The Winner Takes It All

A **modal verb** is a special type of verb because it doesn't follow the normal rules. A modal verb is the same for all subjects (so it's not conjugated) and it needs an infinitive verb immediately after.

The Winner Takes It All

There are many different types of modal verbs in English, but we will focus on modal verbs of obligation.

The Winner Takes It All

Let's look out for the these modal verbs in the lyrics...

The Winner Takes It All

I don't wanna talk
About things we've gone through
Though it's hurting me
Now it's history
I've played all my cards
And that's what you've done too
Nothing more to say
No more ace to play

**The winner takes it all
The loser's standing small
Beside the victory
That's her destiny**

I was in your arms
Thinking I belonged there
I figured it made sense
Building me a fence
Building me a home
Thinking I'd be strong there
But I was a fool
Playing by the rules

The gods may throw a dice
Their minds as cold as ice
And someone way down here
Loses someone dear

**The winner takes it all
The loser has to fall
It's simple and it's plain
Why should I complain**

But tell me does she kiss
Like I used to kiss you
Does it feel the same
When she calls your name
Somewhere deep inside
You must know I miss you
But what can I say
Rules must be obeyed

The judges will decide
The likes of me abide
Spectators of the show
Always staying low

**The game is on again
A lover or a friend
A big thing or a small
The winner takes it all**

I don't wanna talk
If it makes you feel sad
And I understand
You've come to shake my hand
I apologize
If it makes you feel bad
Seeing me so tense
No self-confidence
But you see

The winner takes it all
The winner takes it all

So the winner takes it all
And the loser has to fall
Throw the dice, cold as ice
Way down here, someone dear
Takes it all, has to fall
And it's plain, I complain

The Winner Takes It All

The two main modal verbs of obligation are:

MUST and **HAVE TO**

The Winner Takes It All

The strength of these verbs is different.

The Winner Takes It All

MUST

This is used to express a very strong obligation, such as the law.

You must pay your taxes.

The Winner Takes It All

HAVE TO

This is used to express an obligation imposed on your by somebody else, but it is not as strong.

My teacher said I have to do my homework.