

## My Generation (1965)

The Who

### LISTEN FOR

- Anthem of youth rebellion
- Stuttering lead vocal
- Call and response verses
- Virtuoso instrumentals (bass, drum solos)
- Key changes ratchet up intensity

### CREATION

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*Songwriters* Pete Townshend

*Label, Record* Brunswick 05944 (UK); Decca 31877 (U.S.)

*Musicians* Roger Daltrey (lead vocal), John Entwistle (bass guitar, backing vocal),  
Keith Moon (drums), Pete Townshend (lead guitar, backing vocal)

*Producer* Shel Talmy

*Recording* IBC Studios (London); October 1965; mono

*Charts* UK Pop 2

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### MUSIC

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*Genre* Pop

*Form* Simple verse (each verse has a refrain)

*Key* G major

*Meter* 4/4, moderately fast

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## LISTENING GUIDE

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
0:00	Intro (4)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guitar, bass, and drums establish driving main riff.</li> </ul>
0:05 0:25	Verse (20)	"People try"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead vocal with stuttering</li> <li>R&amp;B-style call and response with backup vocals</li> <li>Refrain</li> </ul>
0:30 0:50	Verse (20)	"Why don't you all"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As before, with provocative stutter on "fade"</li> <li>Refrain</li> </ul>
0:55	Instr. Verse (20)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Virtuosic bass solo with jazz influence.</li> <li>Call and response between bass and guitar.</li> </ul>
1:20 1:50	Verse (28)	"Why don't you all"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key change increases intensity.</li> <li>Another key change.</li> </ul>
1:54 2:14	Verse (24)	"People try"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As before.</li> <li>Refrain.</li> </ul>
2:24	Coda (37)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Another key change</li> <li>Drums become much more active and guitar gets wilder.</li> </ul>

## LYRICS

People try to put us d-down (Talkin' 'bout  
my generation)  
Just because we get around (Talkin' 'bout  
my generation)  
Things they do look awful c-c-cold (Talkin'  
'bout my generation)  
I hope I die before I get old (Talkin' 'bout my  
generation)

This is my generation  
This is my generation, baby

Why don't you all f-fade away (Talkin' 'bout  
my generation)  
Don't try to dig what we all s-s-s-say (Talkin'  
'bout my generation)  
I'm not trying to 'cause a big s-s-sensation  
(Talkin' 'bout my generation)  
I'm just talkin' 'bout my g-g-g-generation  
(Talkin' 'bout my generation)

My generation  
This is my generation, baby

Why don't you all f-fade away (Talkin' 'bout  
my generation)  
And don't try to d-dig what we all s-s-say  
(Talkin' 'bout my generation)  
I'm not trying to 'cause a b-big s-s-sensation  
(Talkin' 'out my generation)

I'm just talkin' 'bout my g-g-generation  
(Talkin' 'bout my generation)

This is my generation  
This is my generation, baby  
My my my generation

People try to put us d-down (Talkin' 'bout  
my generation)  
Just because we g-g-get around (Talkin'  
'bout my generation)  
Things they do look awful c-c-cold (Talkin'  
'bout my generation)  
Yeah, I hope I die before I get old (Talkin'  
'bout my generation)

This is my generation (Talkin' 'bout my  
generation)  
My generation (Talkin' 'bout my generation)  
This is my generation, baby (Talkin' 'bout  
my generation)  
This is my generation (Talkin' 'bout my  
generation)  
This is my generation (Talkin' 'bout my  
generation)  
This is my generation (Talkin' 'bout my  
generation)  
This is my generation (Talkin' 'bout my  
generation)

## SOURCES

- John Covach and Andrew Flory, *What's That Sound*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York: W. W. Norton, 2015), 183.
- <http://www.lyrics007.com/The%20Who%20Lyrics/My%20Generation%20Lyrics.html>.