

Backward speech

Procedure

1. Play the music backward (no words), to verify that there are few if any recognizable words in the backward lyrics. Show list of words -- how many did you hear?
2. Play the backward music, with the supposed lyrics. Most of the proposed words are heard. Maybe repeat this step if necessary. How many words on the list did you hear this time?

Two points to make:

1. There is no hidden message in the music.
2. Our expectations (“perceptual set”) affect what we hear. If told to expect certain words, that is what we are more likely to hear.

How many of these 10 words did you hear in the backward music?

- sweet
- path
- sad
- power
- give
- you
- little
- toolshed
- where
- suffer

Supposed Backward Lyrics

Oh, here's to my sweet Satan
The one whose little path
would make me sad whose power is satan
He'll give you, give you 666
There was a little toolshed
where he made us suffer, sad Satan