

In love with a fool

a song by Alan Smith Robertson

https://youtu.be/3sW_GTQEfW4

Pre-listening activity

Fill in the gaps with “so” or “nor” plus the auxiliary verb and the corresponding subject pronoun. If necessary, you can use the expression on the right to help you

You were hurting, and baby _____
You had no-one to love, and baby _____
You felt rejected, you were not selective
And we knew it was not gonna last 'cause

*I was hurting too
I didn't have anyone to love either*

I'd been in love with a deadbeat failure
I'd been in love with a worthless loser
I'd been in love with a fool
and _____

you had been in love with one too

You felt lonely, and baby _____
You didn't see this coming, but baby _____
All things considered, I can't see this working
_____ 'cause we're both on the rebound

*I felt lonely too
I didn't see this coming either*

you can't see this working either

I fell in love with a deadbeat failure
I fell in love with a worthless loser
I fell in love with a fool
and _____

you fell in love with one too

Time goes by and it feels so right
You let your guard down, _____
We go out and dance all night
You fall in love and _____

I let my guard down too

I fall in love too

I have changed, and baby _____
I'll never need another, and baby _____
Or maybe I'm wrong, don't you feel like I do?
When we make love you still call his name out

*you have changed too
you won't need one either*

All I want is a deadbeat failure
All I want is a worthless loser
All I want is a fool
just like you

But I guess that I ain't good enough for a deadbeat failure
I ain't good enough for a worthless loser
and if I ain't good enough for a fool
Then _____

you aren't good enough either

Now listen to the song to check your answers

Post-listening activities

The words “deadbeat”, “failure” and “loser” are similar in meaning. Match them to the definitions...

- a person who loses consistently in competitions or in life
- a person who evades his financial or emotional responsibilities
- an unsuccessful person

In the last chorus, what does the word “ain't” mean? How do you know?

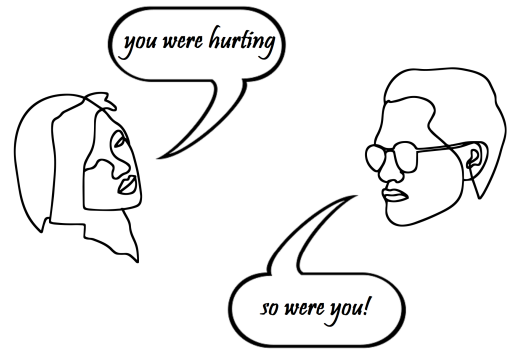
Can you think of any other songs that use the word “ain't”?

These lyrics are a monologue; just one person talking to another. But “so” and “neither/nor” are often used in conversations. Can you convert these phrases from the lyrics into conversations?

You were hurting, and so was I



- You were hurting



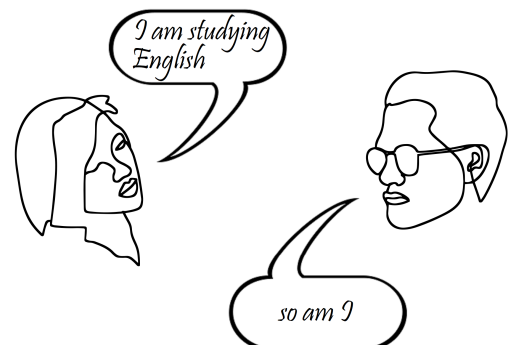
- So were you

You had no-one to love, and nor did I
You felt lonely, and so did I
I fell in love with a fool, and so did you
I have changed, and so have you
I'll never need another, and nor will you

Respond to these expressions with your own “so” or “neither/nor” response

- I am studying English
- I also studied English last year
- I have been studying English for a long time
- I am not English
- I wasn't born in England
- I can speak English quite well
- When I was a baby I couldn't speak English
- I don't want to give up studying English
- My English is getting better
- One day I will visit an English-speaking country
- I like this song and I want to listen to it again

- so am I



In love with a fool

a song by Alan Smith Robertson designed to practice “so” & “neither/nor”

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Teacher's answer sheet. Length: approximately 45 minutes

Pre-listening activity

Fill in the gaps with “so” or “nor” plus the auxiliary verb and the corresponding subject pronoun
If necessary, you can use the expression on the right to help you

Teacher's note: “nor” means exactly the same as “neither”

You were hurting, and baby **so was I**
You had no-one to love, and baby **nor did I**
You felt rejected, you were not selective
And we knew it was not gonna last 'cause

*I was hurting too
I didn't have anyone to love either*

I'd been in love with a deadbeat failure
I'd been in love with a worthless loser
I'd been in love with a fool
and **so had you**

you had been in love with one too

You felt lonely, and baby **so did I**
You didn't see this coming, but baby **nor did I**
All things considered, I can't see this working
Nor can you 'cause we're both on the rebound

*I felt lonely too
I didn't see this coming either*

you can't see this working either

I fell in love with a deadbeat failure
I fell in love with a worthless loser
I fell in love with a fool
and **so did you**

you fell in love with one too

Time goes by and it feels so right
You let your guard down, **so do I**
We go out and dance all night
You fall in love and **so do I**

I let my guard down too

I fall in love too

I have changed, and baby **so have you**
I'll never need another, and baby **nor will you**
Or maybe I'm wrong, don't you feel like I do?
When we make love you still call his name out

*you have changed too
you won't need one either*

All I want is a deadbeat failure
All I want is a worthless loser
All I want is a fool
just like you

But I guess that I ain't good enough for a deadbeat failure
I ain't good enough for a worthless loser
and if I ain't good enough for a fool
Then **nor are you**

you aren't good enough either

Now listen to the song to check your answers

Post-listening activities

The words “deadbeat”, “failure” and “loser” are similar in meaning. Match them to the definitions...

- a person who loses consistently in competitions or in life loser
- a person who evades his financial or emotional responsibilities deadbeat
- an unsuccessful person failure

In the last chorus, what does the word “ain’t” mean? How do you know?

The word “ain’t” is a colloquialism which is often used in spoken English, and especially in songs. It can mean “am not”, “are not”, “is not”, “have not” or “has not”.

In this context it means “am not”. You can guess this because of the “nor are you” afterwards.

- and if I ain't good enough for a fool then nor are you
- and if I am not good enough for a fool then nor are you

Can you think of any other songs that use the word “ain’t”?

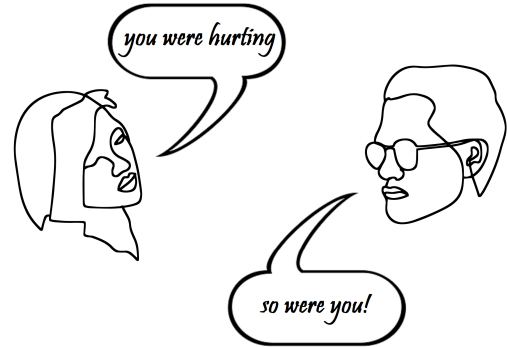
These lyrics are a monologue; just one person talking to another. But “so” and “neither/nor” are also often used in conversations. Can you convert these phrases from the lyrics into conversations?

You were hurting, and so was I



- You were hurting

- So were you



You had no-one to love, and nor did I
You felt lonely, and so did I
I fell in love with a fool, and so did you
I have changed, and so have you
I'll never need another, and nor will you

- You had no-one to love
- You felt lonely
- I fell in love with a fool
- I have changed
- I'll never need another

- Nor did you
- So did you
- So did I
- So have I
- Nor will I

Respond to these expressions with your own “so” or “neither/nor” response

Depending on their own personal situation, and of course their level, your students may want to disagree with the phrases. The teacher's answers below reflect this possibility.

- I am studying English
- I also studied English last year
- I have been studying English for a long time
- I am not English
- I wasn't born in England
- I can speak English quite well
- When I was a baby I couldn't speak English
- I don't want to give up studying English
- My English is getting better
- One day I will visit an English-speaking country
- I like this song and I want to listen to it again

- so am I (I'm not)
- so did I (I didn't)
- so have I (I haven't)
- neither am I (I am)
- neither was I (I was)
- so can I (I can't)
- neither could I (I could)
- neither do I (I do)
- so is mine (mine isn't)
- so will I (I won't)
- so do I (I don't)

