

Grab me a jar

a song by Alan Smith Robertson (Grumpy Old Man)

<https://youtu.be/evkzVGNmoY8> / <https://sptfy.es/grab>

Pre-listening activities

Look at the title of the song. Can you guess the meaning of “grab me a jar”?

Do you know the rules about how to form the comparative and the superlative?

Look at the adjectives below. Do you know their meaning?

Try to convert them into their comparative and the superlative forms

ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
bad		
big		
crazy		
fast		
good		
great		
loud		
open		
pretty		
stupid		
wild		
willing		
young		

Look at the lyrics below. Put an appropriate adjective in its comparative or superlative form from the first exercise into each of the gaps, then listen to the song to check your answers.

Grab me a jar and I'll tell you a tale about the ¹_____ night of my life
It happened when I was a much ²_____ man and ³_____ to rolling the dice
The night was still young and the music was ⁴_____ than anything I'd ever heard
My head started spinning the barman was grinning as I spoke to the ⁵_____ girl

When I woke up next morning, I didn't know where I was, my head felt like it could explode
My heart beat ⁶_____ than a bat out of hell, I thought I was having a stroke
I'd lost all my money, there was blood on my shirt, I couldn't even say my own name
It was the ⁷_____ night that I'll never forget though I cannot remember a thing

...I've got to find my address
The night's been ⁸_____ than I could have guessed
'Cause when I drink things get out of control
So show me the way to go home

Show me the way to go home (*thank you, sir*)
I'm tired and I want to go to bed
I had a little drink about an hour ago
And it's gone right to my head

I got the ⁹ _____ tattoo
And I'm also missing a tooth
'Cause when I drink things get out of control
So show me the way to go home...

Now ten years have passed and I still tell the tale about the ¹⁰ _____ mistake of my life
It happened when I was ¹¹ _____ than now and ¹² _____ to give things a try
Now my body still aches from the beating it got, but I guess that it could've been ¹³ _____
'Cause at least I survived, I don't know how or why, not knowing is my ¹⁴ _____ curse
So I drink to remember that night I forgot, and I drink to relive that binge
but the music is never as loud as it was and the girls are as ugly as sin

Post-listening activities

What is the difference between “badder” and “worse” / “the baddest” and “the worst”?

Which of the photographs below is not represented in the song? Can you describe each photograph?



What is the attitude towards alcohol in your country?

Are you old enough to drink alcohol?

Have you ever drunk a lot of alcohol in one night? Do you know anyone who has? What happened?

Grab me a jar

a song by Alan Smith Robertson to practise comparatives & superlatives

<https://youtu.be/evkzVGNmoY8> / <https://sptfy.es/grab>

Teacher's answer sheet. Length: approximately 30 minutes

Pre-listening activities

Look at the title of the song. Can you guess the meaning of “grab me a jar”?

Normally a “jar” is a cylindrical container made of glass with a lid, used for storing food, but in this context it means a “glass of beer” so “grab me a jar” could mean “bring me a glass of beer”

Do you know the rules about how to form the comparative and the superlative?

Look at the adjectives below. Do you know their meaning?

Try to convert them into their comparative and the superlative forms

ADJECTIVE

bad
big
crazy
fast
good
great
loud
open
pretty
stupid
wild
willing
young

COMPARATIVE

worse (badder)
bigger
crazier
faster
better
greater
louder
more open
prettier
more stupid
wilder
more willing
younger

SUPERLATIVE

worst (baddest)
biggest
craziest
fastest
best
greatest
loudest
most open
prettiest
most stupid
wildest
most willing
youngest

Look at the lyrics below. Put an appropriate adjective in its comparative or superlative form from the first exercise into each of the gaps, then listen to the song to check your answers.

Grab me a jar and I'll tell you a tale about the ¹ best night of my life
It happened when I was a much ² younger man and ³ more open to rolling the dice
The night was still young and the music was ⁴ louder than anything I'd ever heard
My head started spinning the barman was grinning as I spoke to the ⁵ prettiest girl

When I woke up next morning, I didn't know where I was, my head felt like it could explode
My heart beat ⁶ faster than a bat out of hell, I thought I was having a stroke
I'd lost all my money, there was blood on my shirt, I couldn't even say my own name
It was the ⁷ wildest night that I'll never forget though I cannot remember a thing

...I've got to find my address
The night's been ⁸ crazier than I could have guessed
'Cause when I drink things get out of control
So show me the way to go home

Show me the way to go home (*thank you, sir*)
I'm tired and I want to go to bed
I had a little drink about an hour ago
And it's gone right to my head

I got the ⁹ baddest tattoo
And I'm also missing a tooth
'Cause when I drink things get out of control
So show me the way to go home...

Now ten years have passed and I still tell the tale about the ¹⁰ biggest mistake of my life
It happened when I was ¹¹ more stupid than now and ¹² more willing to give things a try
Now my body still aches from the beating it got, but I guess that it could've been ¹³ worse
'Cause at least I survived, I don't know how or why, not knowing is my ¹⁴ greatest curse
So I drink to remember that night I forgot, and I drink to relive that binge
but the music is never as loud as it was and the girls are as ugly as sin

Post-listening activities

What is the difference between “badder” and “worse” / “the baddest” and “the worst”?

- *“Worse” means “of poorer quality or lower standard; less good or desirable.”*
- *“Badder” is slang. Sometimes when we use the word “bad” we use it with a similar meaning to “tough” or “formidable” (for example: Michael Jackson's album “BAD”).*

Which of the photographs below is not represented in the song? Can you describe each photograph?



He's missing a tooth ✓



He's got a chicken / a hen ✗



He got a tattoo ✓

(FYI, these photos are taken from the 2009 & 2011 films “The Hangover” & “The Hangover 2”)

What is the attitude towards alcohol in your country?

Are you old enough to drink alcohol?

Have you ever drunk a lot of alcohol in one night? Do you know anyone who has? What happened?

Your pupils might tell stories as if drinking was not a serious problem. Depending on the type of class you are dealing with, you might want to point out both the short-term and the long-term negatives of heavy drinking.