

8B SONG Piano Man

- a With a partner, read the lyrics and think what the missing words 1–9 could be. Each missing word rhymes with the word in **bold** with the same number.



- b Listen and write the words in the gaps.

- c Report the **highlighted** phrases in the song.

- 1 He told the piano man that he wasn't really sure how it (the song) went. (line 6)
- 2 He said that _____ (line 7)
- 3 He told Bill that _____ (line 17)
- 4 John said that he _____ (lines 19–20)
- 5 They asked the piano man _____ (line 36)

GLOSSARY

shuffles = walks without lifting their feet off the ground

we're all in the mood for = we all feel like

out-of-town folk = visitors who don't live in the town

real estate = US version of *estate agent*

bread = slang for *money*, in this context in the form of a tip

SONG FACTS

Piano Man was released as a single in 1973, and was the first big hit song for American singer-songwriter Billy Joel. Before Joel became a successful recording artist, he used to be a piano player and singer at the Executive Room bar in Los Angeles. *Piano Man* describes his experiences of working there, and tells of the failed dreams of the customers, the barman, and the piano player himself.

Piano Man

- 1 It's nine o'clock on a Saturday
- 2 The regular crowd shuffles ¹ **in**
- 3 There's an old man sitting next to me
- 4 Making love to his tonic and ¹ gin
- 5 He says, 'Son, can you play me a memory?
- 6 **I'm not really sure how it** ² **goes**
- 7 But **it's sad and it's sweet** and I knew it complete
- 8 When I wore a younger man's ² _____.

La la la di di da, la la di di da dum

CHORUS

- 9 Sing us a song, you're the piano man
- 10 Sing us a song ³ **tonight**
- 11 Well, we're all in the mood for a melody
- 12 And you've got us feeling ³ _____
- 13 Now John at the bar is a friend of mine
- 14 He gets me my drinks for ⁴ **free**
- 15 And he's quick with a joke for the out-of-town folk
- 16 But there's someplace that he'd rather ⁴ _____
- 17 He says **'Bill, I believe this is killing me'**
- 18 As the smile ran away from his ⁵ **face**
- 19 'Well, I'm sure that I could be a movie star
- 20 **If I could get out of this** ⁵ _____.

Oh, la la la di di da, la la di di da dum

- 21 Now Paul is a real estate novelist
- 22 Who never had time for a ⁶ **wife**
- 23 And he's talking with Davy, who's still in the Navy
- 24 And probably will be for ⁶ _____
- 25 And the waitress is practising politics
- 26 As the businessmen talk to their ⁷ **phones**
- 27 Yes, they're sharing a drink they call loneliness
- 28 But it's better than drinking ⁷ _____

CHORUS

- 29 It's a pretty good crowd for a Saturday
- 30 And the manager gives me a ⁸ **smile**
- 31 'Cause he knows that it's me they've been coming to see
- 32 To forget about life for a ⁸ _____
- 33 And the piano, it sounds like a carnival
- 34 And the microphone smells like a ⁹ **beer**
- 35 And they sit at the bar and put bread in my jar
- 36 And say, 'Man, **what are you doing** ⁹ _____?'

Oh, la la la da di da, la la da di da dum

CHORUS

SOLUTIONS OF SONG 8B

a)

2 clothes

3 alright (all right)

4 be

5 place

6 life

7 alone

8 while

9 here

b)

2 He said that it (the song) was sad and it was sweet.

3 He told Bill that he believed it (the bar) was killing him.

4 John said that he could be a movie star if he could get out of this place.

5 They asked the piano man what he was doing here.