

# Never Would I...

a song by Alan Smith Robertson

<https://youtu.be/ZTfPd4pxVfs>

## Pre-listening activities

Look at the text below and try to change some of the phrases so that they use inversions.

I would never have thought to break your lonely heart  
I would never have thought to take your love apart  
I could never have brought myself to betray your love  
I would never have lost all hope so soon

She had barely said to me “*I do*”,  
She looked at him and mumbled “*I love you*”  
As soon as she was wearing my ring,  
She was gazing over at him  
“What do you take this man to be?”

I understand only now  
How it feels to be stabbed in the back  
They thought very little of how much pain,  
They would cause, it all sounds so insane  
If I had known how much it hurt...

I didn't think once there is no reason to go on living  
And so I picked myself up and I dusted myself down  
And then I got a decent song out of all this heartaching  
'Cause we rarely ever get a second chance in love

So I told her...

Now listen to the song to check.

Make any necessary corrections and convert any phrases you may have missed.

## Post-listening activities

- Do you know the meaning of the expression “*to pick oneself up and dust oneself down*”?
- The narrator of this song looks on the bright side and exclaims: “*at least I got a decent song out of all this heartache*”
  - Are you just as optimistic? Do you do the same thing?
  - Can you think of a time when something good came out of a terrible event?

# Never Would I...

a song by Alan Smith Robertson, designed to practice “inversions”

<https://youtu.be/ZTfPd4pxVfs>

Teacher's answer sheet. Length: approximately 15 minutes

*Notice: Inversions are usually studied at advanced level. This worksheet is more appropriate for practising inversions or with more autonomous advanced level students who will most likely have already been exposed to this structure in English.*

## Pre-listening activities

Look at the text below and try to change some of the phrases so that they use inversions.

I would never have thought to break your lonely heart  
I would never have thought to take your love apart  
I could never have brought myself to betray your love  
I would never have lost all hope so soon

*Never would I have...  
Never would I have...  
Never could I have...  
Never would I have...*

She had barely said to me me “I do”,  
She looked at him and mumbled “I love you”  
As soon as she was wearing my ring,  
She was gazing over at him  
“What do you take this man to be?”

*Barely had she said...  
No sooner was she...*

I understand only now  
How it feels to be stabbed in the back  
They thought very little of how much pain,  
They would cause, it all sounds so insane  
If I had known how much it hurt...

*Only now do I understand...  
Little did they think...  
Had I known...*

I didn't think once there is no reason to go on living  
And so I picked myself up and I dusted myself down  
And then I got a decent song out of all this heartaching  
'Cause we rarely ever get a second chance in love

*Not once did I think...  
...rarely do we ever get...*

So I told her...

Now listen to the song to check.

Make any necessary corrections and convert any phrases you may have missed.

## Post-listening activities

- Do you know the meaning of the expression “I picked myself up and I dusted myself down”?
  - *The phrase “to pick oneself up” literally means “to stand up again after falling to the ground” but figuratively it can also mean “to recover from a difficult situation”.*
  - *The expression “to dust oneself down” means “to brush the dirt or dust off one’s clothes” and when it is used alone it is always used in the literal sense.*
  - *When you put the two expressions together they take on the figurative meaning of “recovering from a difficult situation and starting afresh”.*
- The narrator of this song looks on the bright side and exclaims “at least I got a decent song out of all this heartache”.
  - Are you just as optimistic? Do you do the same thing?
  - Can you think of a time when something good came out of a terrible event?