

# Something Inside So Strong

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Comparative adjectives and listening for pleasure

- **Pre-listening task. Change the adjectives into comparative adjectives**

far	
tall	
loud	
fast	
high	
good	

- **Now listen to the song, and put the comparative adjectives into the right place.**

### Something Inside So Strong (Labi Siffre, 1990)

The \_\_\_\_\_ you build your barriers  
The \_\_\_\_\_ I become  
The \_\_\_\_\_ you take my rights away  
The \_\_\_\_\_ I will run  
You can deny me  
You can decide to turn your face away  
No matter, cos there's....

Something inside so strong  
I know that I can make it  
Tho' you're doing me wrong, so wrong  
You thought that my pride was gone  
Oh no, something inside so strong  
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong

The more you refuse to hear my voice  
The \_\_\_\_\_ I will sing  
You hide behind walls of Jericho  
Your lies will come tumbling  
Deny my place in time  
You squander wealth that's mine  
My light will shine so brightly  
It will blind you  
Cos there's.....

Something inside so strong  
I know that I can make it  
Tho' you're doing me wrong, so wrong

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## Comparative adjectives and listening for pleasure

You thought that my pride was gone  
Oh no, something inside so strong  
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong

Brothers and sisters  
When they insist we're just not good enough  
When we know \_\_\_\_\_  
Just look 'em in the eyes and say  
I'm gonna do it anyway  
I'm gonna do it anyway

Something inside so strong  
And I know that I can make it  
Tho' you're doing me wrong, so wrong  
You thought that my pride was gone  
Oh no, something inside so strong  
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong

Brothers and sisters  
When they insist we're just good not enough  
When we know better  
Just look 'em in the eyes and say  
I'm gonna do it anyway  
I'm gonna do it anyway  
I'm gonna do it anyway  
I'm gonna do it anyway

Because there's something inside so strong  
And I know that I can make it  
Tho' you're doing me, so wrong  
You thought that my pride was gone  
Oh no, something inside so strong  
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong

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## Answers and teacher notes

Learners can check their answers with the full lyrics (see page 4) after listening once or twice. This activity suits ESOL students at Entry 3+. It creates plenty of scope for further work such as:

- discussion around equality and diversity
- discussing and giving reasons for favourite songs
- extension to superlative adjectives, etc.

I find using music in the classroom adds an extra level of engagement and changes the dynamic - in a good way! I use my Spotify and a Bluetooth speaker, but the song is also available on YouTube.

<https://www.riseupandsing.org/songs/something-inside-so-strong> provides some of the background to the song and Labi Siffre, if you or your learners want to do further research.

Links to many ESOL curriculum elements at several levels, including:

### ESOL Ws/E2.2a: Use adjectives

- (i) Know and use the terms adjective and noun
- (ii) Understand how adjectives can be used to extend information, convey attitude and detail about a noun, and apply in writing
- (iii) Know and use some common adjectives to describe people, places, feelings or objects
- (iv) Understand word order regarding the use of adjectives in simple sentences, and use it appropriately

(v) Know and use the comparative form of adjectives

### ESOL Sc/E2.3f Give a short description

- (i) be able to use present tense, especially of be and have to describe a person, place or thing
- (ii) know a number of descriptive adjectives, to add interest to a description
- (iii) be able to make comparisons, using comparative adjectives, with -er and with more
- (iv) know that a description can be an expression of fact or of opinion

### ESOL Sc/E3.4f Give a short description and make comparisons

- (i) Use grammatical forms suitable for the level such as prepositional phrases.
- (ii) Know and use a number of adjectives, with their antonyms, together with the comparative and superlative form of the adjective, to convey detail, interest and attitude in a description.

- (iii) Express, where appropriate, similarity and contrast through the use of markers such as but, however; and comparative structures such as (not) as..., as.
- (iv) Understand how a description is often structured, i.e. going from the general to the particular, or from factual description to opinion, and begin to apply this.
- (v) Add, where appropriate, personal opinion to a description, through use of the superlative form of the adjective or use of intensifiers such as too or not enough.
- (vi) Begin to use lexis for positive or negative effect. (vii) Begin to use lexis creatively.

### ESOL Sc/L1.3e Describe and compare

- (i) Use pre-modification and post-modification (e.g. participle phrases) to enrich a noun phrase when describing people, places or things. Example: The nicest person in my office is Jane, the manager's PA. A man wearing dark glasses and trainers ran across the road.
- (ii) Make comparisons, using regular and irregular comparative forms, including fewer and less. Example: People here drive much faster and with a lot less care than in my country.
- (iii) Incorporate descriptions into various types of discourse, e.g. narrative, personal information, or discussion, indicating what is fact and what is opinion

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## Answers and teacher notes



### Something Inside So Strong (*Labi Siffre, 1990*)

The higher you build your barriers  
The taller I become  
The farther you take my rights away  
The faster I will run  
You can deny me  
You can decide to turn your face away  
No matter, cos there's....

Something inside so strong  
I know that I can make it  
Tho' you're doing me wrong, so wrong  
You thought that my pride was gone  
Oh no, something inside so strong  
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong

The more you refuse to hear my voice  
The louder I will sing  
You hide behind walls of Jericho  
Your lies will come tumbling  
Deny my place in time  
You squander wealth that's mine  
My light will shine so brightly  
It will blind you  
Cos there's.....

Something inside so strong  
I know that I can make it  
Tho' you're doing me wrong, so wrong  
You thought that my pride was gone  
Oh no, something inside so strong  
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong

Brothers and sisters  
When they insist we're just not good enough  
When we know better  
Just look 'em in the eyes and say  
I'm gonna do it anyway  
I'm gonna do it anyway

Something inside so strong  
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