Dolly Parton – 9 To 5 - Notes

- **Activity types:** vocabulary, ordering.
- **Vocabulary:** jobs/occupations.
- **Pronunciation:** reduced *ing* (*-in’*)
- **Note:** Dolly Parton wrote this for the 1980 film of the same name, and won Grammy Awards for Best Country Song and Best Female Country Vocal Performance.

1) Ask students what their parents do for a living (or what their ideal profession would be). They discuss the pros and cons of these professions with a partner. Do they know the expression “the Rat Race”?

2) Give each student a copy of the folded worksheet and ask them to write the word under each picture. **Key:** (the numbers are the order they appear in the song).
   - a) shower – 3, b) bed – 1, c) wait – 7, d) traffic – 4, e) ladder – 6, f) pour – 2, g) wallet – 10, h) 9 to 5 – 5, i) game – 9, j) ship – 8

3) Ask students to match the vocabulary to the correct meaning. **Key:** 1 – e, 2 – c, 3 – d, 4 – a, 5 – j, 6 – g, 7 – h, 8 – f, 9 – i, 10 – b

4) Ask students to unfold the worksheet. Play the song, they put the lyrics in the correct order. (They may find it easier to cut the page, and to lay the cards out as they hear them. Point out the reduced pronunciation of *–ing* as *–in’*
   **Key:** See complete lyrics.

5) Feedback, then sing the song together.

**Follow up:**
Ask students to work in teams and to choose a job. They write a short description then read it aloud to the other teams without saying the job title – the other teams guess what it is. They can then discuss the pros and cons of each job.

**Complete lyrics:**

Tumble outta bed  
And I stumble to the kitchen  
Pour myself a cup of ambition  
And yawn and stretch and try to come to life

Jump in the shower  
And the blood starts pumpin'  
Out on the streets  
The traffic starts jumpin'  
With folks like me on the job from 9 to 5

**Chorus:**  
**Workin' 9 to 5**  
What a way to make a livin'  
 Barely gettin' by  
 It's all takin'  
And no givin'  
They just use your mind  
And they never give you credit  
It's enough to drive you  
Crazy if you let it

9 to 5, for service and devotion  
You would think that I  
Would deserve a fair promotion  
Want to move ahead  
But the boss won't seem to let me  
I swear sometimes that man is out to get me  
Mmmmm...

They let you dream  
Just to watch 'em shatter  
You're just a step  
On the boss man's ladder  
But you got dreams he'll never take away

In the same boat  
With a lot of your friends  
Waitin' for the day  
Your ship'll come in  
And the tide's gonna turn  
And it's all gonna roll your way

**Repeat Chorus**

9 to 5, yeah, they got you where they want you  
There's a better life  
And you think about it, don't you?  
It's a rich man's game  
No matter what they call it  
And you spend your life  
Putting money in his wallet

**Repeat Chorus**

Repeat final verse (9 to 5, yeah...)
**Dolly Parton – 9 To 5**

Write the word under the picture, then listen to the song and put them in the order they appear.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a)</th>
<th>b)</th>
<th>c)</th>
<th>d)</th>
<th>e)</th>
<th>f)</th>
<th>g)</th>
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Match the vocab/phrases with the correct definition:

1. **tumble**  
   a) to extend oneself or something to its full length  
2. **stumble**  
   b) to be lucky  
3. **yawn**  
   c) to walk unsteadily  
4. **stretch**  
   d) a deep involuntarily opening of the mouth due to tiredness or boredom  
5. **get by**  
   e) to fall  
6. **in the same boat**  
   f) to impair or destroy  
7. **ladder (of a career)**  
   g) to be in a similar situation  
8. **shatter**  
   h) a metaphor for job promotion  
9. **the tide's gonna turn**  
   i) the trend is going to change  
10. **your ship will come in**  
   j) to manage to live on very little money

Listen to the song again and put the lines in the correct order (the lines in bold are the Chorus).

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Line 1</th>
<th>Line 2</th>
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