



## Greatest Love Of All – Whitney Houston – Notes



- **Activity type:** gap fill, opposites, vocabulary.
- **Grammar:** Comparatives, Superlatives
- **Level:** Elementary, Pre-Intermediate
- **Time:** 30 mins.
- **Note:** This was one of Whitney Houston's biggest hits, a cover of a song already recorded by George Benson. Released on Whitney's 1985 debut album, it was a hit the following year - The New York Times called the song a compelling assertion of spiritual devotion, black pride, and family loyalty while Rolling Stone wrote that as the song builds, Houston "slowly pours on the soul, slips in some churchy phrasing, holds notes a little longer and shows off her glorious voice." The video was filmed at Harlem's Apollo Theater in New York City. Whitney appears as a successful singer about to perform in front of an audience. She reminisces about when she was a child in a talent competition, receiving encouragement from her mother, played in the video by Houston's mother Cissy Houston.

1) Revise the Comparative and Superlative forms if necessary. Give each student a copy of the folded worksheet and ask them to complete Exercise 1.

**Key:**  
1. more difficult  
2. greatest  
3. easier

2) Students match the opposites.

**Key:**

always	never
beauty	ugliness
follow	lead
give	take
hate	love
lost	found
more difficult	easier
nobody	everybody
outside	inside
past	future
shame	pride
succeed	fail
weakness	strength

3) Ask students to complete the biography.

**Key:**

Whitney Houston started singing when she was a child, and became one of most famous people in America. "The Greatest Love Of All" was one of the biggest selling singles in America in 1986. Whitney Houston starred in the film "The Bodyguard" in 1992, but many critics thought her acting was not as good as her singing. The same year she married Bobby Brown, the singer with New Edition, then the most successful group in America. For many years they had the happiest marriage in show business, but in 2007 they divorced. Whitney died in February 2012.

4) Play the song. Students tick the words as they hear them (not all the words are in the song).

5) Ask students to unfold the worksheet. Before playing the song ask them to try to insert the missing words in the correct gaps, based on their previous listening and context.

6) Play the song. Students check and correct.

7) Correct, and sing together.





## Greatest Love Of All – Whitney Houston – Complete



I believe the children are our **future**  
Teach them well and let them **lead** the way  
Show them all the beauty they possess **inside**  
Give them a sense of **pride** to make it **easier**  
Let the children's laughter remind us how we used to be  
**Everybody's** searching for a hero  
People need someone to look up to  
I **never found** anyone who fulfilled my needs  
A lonely place to be  
So I learned to depend on me

I decided long ago, **never** to walk in anyone's shadows  
If I **fail**, if I **succeed**  
At least I live as I believe  
No matter what they **take** from me  
They can't **take** away my dignity  
Because the greatest **love** of all  
Is happening to me  
I **found** the greatest **love** of all  
**Inside** of me  
The greatest **love** of all  
Is easy to achieve  
Learning to **love** yourself  
It is the greatest **love** of all

I believe the children are our **future**  
Teach them well and let them **lead** the way  
Show them all the beauty they possess **inside**  
Give them a sense of **pride** to make it **easier**  
Let the children's laughter remind us how we used to be

I decided long ago, **never** to walk in anyone's shadows  
If I **fail**, if I **succeed**  
At least I live as I believe  
No matter what they **take** from me  
They can't **take** away my dignity  
Because the greatest **love** of all  
Is happening to me  
I **found** the greatest **love** of all  
**Inside** of me  
The greatest **love** of all  
Is easy to achieve  
Learning to **love** yourself  
It is the greatest **love** of all

And if by chance, that special place  
That you've been dreaming of  
Leads you to a lonely place  
Find your **strength** in **love**