

A Hard Day's Night (1964)

The Beatles

LISTEN FOR

- Tonal complexity, yet still infectious pop song
 - Non-diatonic pitches (mixolydian, chromatic, and blues inflections)
- Variation on 12-bar blues in A sections
- Double-tracked vocals
- Dissonant opening chord
- Electric 12-string guitar

CREATION

Songwriters John Lennon, Paul McCartney

Label, Record Parlophone 516; also appears on *A Hard Day's Night* (Parlophone 1230)

Musicians John Lennon (guitar, voice), Paul McCartney (bass, voice), George Harrison (12-string electric guitar), Ringo Starr (drums, percussion), George Martin (piano)

Producer George Martin

Engineer Norman Smith

Recording EMI Studio Two (London); April 1964; mono

Charts Pop 1, Album 1

MUSIC

Form AABA with partial repetition

Key G major

Meter 4/4

LISTENING GUIDE

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
0:00	Intro		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dramatically short opening chord, whose harmony (d-f-a-c-f-g-a) and timbre (12-string guitar, piano, and bass) blend into single impression.
0:04	A (12)	"It's been a hard"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lennon's lead vocal double-tracked Guitar (electric and acoustic)/ bass/drums texture augmented with bongos. F chord (bVII; mixolydian inflection) at "working"
0:09		"It's been a hard"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same chord progression as phrase 1. F chord at "sleeping"
0:16		"But when I get"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New chord progression conflates harmonies in phrases 2 and 3 of 12-bar blues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moves to IV in bar 9 (as in bar 5 of 12-bar blues) Resolves to tonic in bar 11 (as in 12-bar blues) Chromatic passing tones in voices at "when I get" Blue note (B\flat) at "feel" Resolution to tonic at "all right"
0:24	A (8+4)	"You know I work" "money" "give me" "So why I love" "feel"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As before. F chord F chord Chromatic passing tones Blue note
0:45	B (8)	"When I'm home"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McCartney takes the lead Cowbell adds rhythmic drive.
0:59	A (8+4)	It's been a hard"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like previous A.
1:20	A (8+4)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instrumental break for first eight Electric 12-string/piano doubling. Voices return for cadence phrase.
1:34		"So why I love"	
1:41	B (8)	"When I'm home"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like previous B.
1:55	A (8+4)	"It's been a hard"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like previous A .
2:16	Extension (4)	"You know I feel"	
2:22	Outro (fade)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electric 12-string arpeggios (F chord) Lack of drums create relaxed counterbalance to tense opening and fulfill day-to-night transition in song's text.

LYRICS

It's been a hard day's night, and I'd been
working like a dog

It's been a hard day's night, I should be
sleeping like a log

But when I get home to you I find the things
that you do will make me feel alright

You know I work all day to get you money to
buy you things

And it's worth it just to hear you say you're
going to give me everything

So why on earth should I moan, cause when
I get you alone you know I feel OK

When I'm home everything seems to be
right

When I'm home feeling you holding me
tight, tight, yeah

It's been a hard day's night, and I'd been
working like a dog

It's been a hard day's night, I should be
sleeping like a log

But when I get home to you I find the things
that you do will make me feel alright

So why on earth should I moan, cos when I
get you alone you know I feel OK

When I'm home everything seems to be
right

When I'm home feeling you holding me
tight, tight, yeah

It's been a hard day's night, and I'd been
working like a dog

It's been a hard day's night, I should be
sleeping like a log

But when I get home to you I find the things
that you do will make me feel alright

You know I feel alright

You know I feel alright

SOURCES

- Joseph Schloss, Larry Starr, and Christopher Waterman, *Rock: Music, Culture, and Business* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 117–19.
- Albin Zak III, Course Pak for A MUS-398 at the University of Albany.
- <http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/beatles/aharddaysnight.html>.