

Cat's in the Cradle

by Harry Chapin (lyrics by Sandra Chapin).

My child arrived just the other day
He _____(1) to the world in the _____(2) way
But there were planes to catch and bills to pay
He learned to _____(3) while I _____(4) away
And he was talkin' 'fore I knew it, and as he grew
He'd say " _____(5) gonna be like _____(6), Dad
You know I'm gonna be like you"

Chorus:

And the _____(7) in the cradle and the _____(8) spoon
Little boy blue and the man on the moon
When you comin' home, Dad
I _____(9) know when, but _____(10) get together then
You know we'll have a good time then

My son turned ten just the other day
He said, " _____(11) for the ball, Dad, come _____(12) let's play
Can you teach me to throw", I said "Not today
I got a _____(13) to do", he said, " _____(14) ok
And he walked away but his smile never dimmed
And said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah
You _____(15) I'm gonna _____(16) like _____(17)"

Chorus

Well, he came from college just the other day
So _____(18) like a man I just _____(19) to say
"Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for a while"
He _____(20) his head and he _____(21) with a smile
"What I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car keys
See you _____(22), can I _____(23) them please"

Chorus

I've long since retired, my son's moved away
I called him _____(24) just the _____(25) day
I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind"
He said, "I'd _____(26) to, Dad, if I can _____(27) the time
You see my new job's a hassle and kids have the flu
But it's sure nice talking to you, Dad
It's been _____(28) nice _____(29) to _____(30)"

And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me
He'd grown up just like me
My boy was just like me

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was don't find know other sure That's silver have much
shook you I'm usual Thanks him

My child arrived just the other day
He came to the world in the _____(1) way
But there were planes to catch and bills to pay
He learned to walk while I _____(2) away
And he was talkin' 'fore I knew it, and as he grew
He'd say " _____(3) gonna be like you, Dad
You know I'm gonna be like you"

Chorus:

And the cat's in the cradle and the _____(4) spoon
Little boy blue and the man on the moon
When you comin' home, Dad
I _____(5) know when, but we'll get together then
You know we'll have a good time then

My son turned ten just the other day
He said, " _____(6) for the ball, Dad, come on let's play
can you teach me to throw", I said "Not today
I got a lot to do", he said, " _____(7) ok
And he walked away but his smile never dimmed
And said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah
You _____(8) I'm gonna be like _____(9)"

Chorus:

Well, he came from college just the other day
So _____(10) like a man I just had to say
"Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for a while"
He _____(11) his head and he said with a smile
"What I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car keys
See you later, can I _____(12) them please"

Chorus:

I've long since retired, my son's moved away
I called him up just the _____(13) day
I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind"
He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can _____(14) the time
You see my new job's a hassle and kids have the flu
But it's sure nice talking to you, Dad
It's been _____(15) nice talking to _____(16)"

And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me
He'd grown up just like me, My boy was just like me

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My child arrived just the other day
He came to the world in the usual way
But there were planes to catch and bills to pay
He learned to walk while I was away
And he was talkin' 'fore I knew it, and as he grew
He'd say "I'm gonna be like you, Dad
You know I'm gonna be like you"

Chorus:

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man on the moon
When you comin' home, Dad
I don't know when, but we'll get together then
You know we'll have a good time then

My son turned ten just the other day
He said, "Thanks for the ball, Dad, come on let's play
can you teach me to throw", I said "Not today
I got a lot to do", he said, "That's ok
And he walked away but his smile never dimmed
And said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah
You know I'm gonna be like him"

Chorus

Well, he came from college just the other day
So much like a man I just had to say
"Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for a while"
He shook his head and said with a smile
"What I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car keys
See you later, can I have them please"

Chorus

I've long since retired, my son's moved away
I called him up just the other day
I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind"
He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can find the time
You see my new job's a hassle and kids have the flu
But it's sure nice talking to you, Dad
It's been sure nice talking to you"

And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me
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Discussion Questions:

1. In your culture, do both parents usually work or just the father?
2. Did your father spend a lot of time with you when you were young, or was he working a lot?
3. Do you spend a lot of time with your family or do you spend too much time working?
4. What is a good balance between work and family life?

Start with live version and fast forward to 0:55

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-s5r2spPJ8g>

For listening, play this version:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUwjNBjqR-c>