99 Bottles of Beer

"**99 Bottles of Beer**" is a backwards [counting](#) song in both the United States and Canada.

Lyrics

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

[99 Bottles of Beer](#)

A piano recording of the first verse of "99 Bottles of Beer"

Problems playing this file? See [media help](#).

The words to the song are:[1][2]

[Sheet music for the vocals of "99 Bottles of Beer"](#)

Alternative lines:[3]

> If one of those bottles should happen to fall, (there'd be)98 bottles of beer on the wall...

Or:

> If one of those bottles should accidentally fall, (there'd be)98 bottles of beer on the wall...

We repeat the line many times, with one less bottle each time. When there are no bottles left, a different line is used. Some lines that can be used for when there are no bottles are:

> No more bottles of beer on the wall, no more bottles of beer.

> Go to the store and buy some more 99 bottles of beer on the wall...

Or:

> No more bottles of beer on the wall, no more bottles of beer.

> We've taken them down and passed them around; now we're drunk and passed out!

Other alternate lines read:

> If that one bottle should happen to fall, what a waste of alcohol!

Or:

> No more bottles of beer on the wall, no more bottles of beer(on the wall).

> There's nothing else to fall, because there's no more bottles of beer on the wall.

Sometimes, the song does not stop when there are 1 or no bottles of beer left. In this case, the song keeps going with -1, -2, -3, and so on bottles of beer.

Andy Kaufman routine

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American comedian Andy Kaufman had a comedy bit where he would sing all 100 verses. This was considered funny because the song is not usually completed due to its length.[4]

Atticus

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Atticus, a band from Knoxville, Tennessee, recorded a version of the song in front of people. It took 13 and a half minutes. It was recorded at a Glasgow, Scotland bar called The Cathouse. It was included in the 2001 album *Figment*. Rich Stewart, also known as Homebrew Stew, called it the number one drinking song out of 86 in an article for *Modern Drunkard Magazine*.[5]

Math versions

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Donald Byrd has dozens of versions of the song. These versions are inspired by math topics. The songs written by himself and others, and some of them have been published.[6][7] Byrd says that the collection is fun and a good way to teach about infinity. Among his versions are:[6]

> Infinite bottles of beer on the wall,

> infinite bottles of beer;

> If one of those bottles should happen to fall,

> infinite bottles of beer on the wall.

Infinite bottles of beer on the wall,

infinite bottles of beer;

If finite bottles should happen to fall,

infinite bottles of beer on the wall.

These two verses can be repeated forever.

References

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1. ↑ Nyberg, Tim (2006). *99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall: The Complete Lyrics*. Andrews McMeel Publishing. p. 112. ISBN 978-0-7407-6074-7.
2. ↑ Baird, Kevin C. (2007). *Ruby by example: concepts and code*. No Starch Press. p. 25. ISBN 978-1-59327-148-0.
3. ↑ Cohen, Norm (2005). *Folk Music: A Regional Exploration*. Greenwood Press. p. 60. ISBN 0-313-32872-2.
4. ↑ Patton, Charlie (December 23, 1999). "Ever-annoying Andy Kaufman gets last laugh | Jacksonville.com". Archived from the original on 2018-02-01. Retrieved 15 Sep 2012.
5. ↑ Stewart, Rich. "Rhythm and Booze: The Top 86 Drinking Songs". *Modern Drunkard Magazine*. Retrieved 2018-12-13.
6. ↑ 6.0 6.1 Byrd, Donald (2015-11-30). "Infinite Bottles of Beer: Mathematical Concepts with Epsilon Pain, Or: A Cantorial Approach to Cantorian Arithmetic and Other Mathematical Melodies" (PDF). Indiana University, School of Informatics. Retrieved 2020-03-26.
7. ↑ Donald Byrd (2010). "Infinite Bottles of Beer: A cantorial approach to Cantorian arithmetic and other mathematical melodies". *Math Horizons*: 16–17.

Other websites

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- 99 Bottles of OOP Book