

- a** Listen to the song and write the missing words 1–10. Use the clues (in brackets) to help you.

Our house

Father wears his ¹ _____ best (*a day of the week*)

Mother's ² _____ she needs a rest (*adjective*)

The kids are playing up ³ _____ (*part of the house*)

Sister's sighing in her sleep

⁴ _____'s got a date to keep (*member of the family*)

He can't hang around

Our house, in the middle of our street

Our house, in the middle of our...

Our house it has a crowd

There's ⁵ _____ something happening (*adverb of frequency*)

And it's usually quite loud

Our ⁶ _____ she's so house-proud (*member of the family, colloquial*)

Nothing ever slows her down and a mess is not allowed

Our house, in the middle of our street, etc.

(Something tells you that you've got to move away from it)

Father gets up ⁷ _____ for work (*adverb of time*)

Mother has to iron his ⁸ _____ (*something you wear*)

Then she sends the kids to ⁹ _____ (*a place*)

Sees them off with a small kiss

She's the one they're going to miss In lots of ways

Our house, in the middle of our street, etc.

I remember way back then when everything was true
and when

We would have such a very good time
such a fine time

Such a ¹⁰ _____ (*adjective*) time

And I remember how we'd play, simply waste the day away

Then we'd say nothing would come between us two dreamers

Repeat first verse (Father wears his ..., etc.)

Our house, in the middle of our street, etc.



Glossary

- Sunday best = best clothes
- playing up = behaving badly
- sighing = making a sad sound
- has got a date = has a meeting (with a girl)
- hang around = stay here for long
- house-proud = a person who likes to keep her house clean and tidy
- you've got to = you have to

Song facts

Our house was the British group Madness's biggest international hit. Twenty years later, the musical *Our House*, based on Madness's songs, opened in London's West End and won the 2003 Olivier Award for 'Best New Musical'.

- b** Read the song with the glossary and answer the questions.

1 Do you think the singer's memory of his home is positive or negative?

2 Which of these adjectives would you use to describe his house?

Tick the boxes.

busy ☐ quiet ☐ clean ☐ untidy ☐ crowded ☐ traditional ☐