

## Early In the Morning

SHORT-DRAG, WALKAWAY, AND CAPSTAN CHANTEY

Alternatively known as “Drunken Sailor,” this was one of the first chanteys to be published, in Francis Allyn Olmsted’s narrative, *Incidents of a Whaling Voyage* (New York, 1841). It was popular on shipboard and has been even more popular on shore—the universally-known chantey—partly because it is so easy to think up amusing punishments for the drunken sailor. In a group, the improvisation can be done round-robin, with each participant in turn either making up an answer to the question “What shall we do with a drunken sailor?” or (the previous question having been answered) posing some other question entirely, such as “What can we do with a sleepy monkey?”—which then requires a clever answer of its own. Group leaders may wish to experiment with the many ways of alternating solo and chorus, though the solo is usually limited to the first “giveaway” line only, with everyone joining in for the remainder of each stanza and all of the choruses. By the way, sailor pronunciation was always “Er’-lye in the morning.”

What shall we do with a drun-ken sai-lor? What shall we do with a drun-ken sai-lor? What shall we

do with a drun-ken sai-lor? Ear-ly in the morn-ing. Way, hey, and up she ri-ses, Way,

hey, and up she ri-ses, Way, hey, and up she ri-ses, Ear ly in the morn-ing.

1. What shall we do with a drunken sailor?  
 What shall we do with a drunken sailor?  
 What shall we do with a drunken sailor?  
 Early in the morning.  
  
 Way, hey, and up she rises,  
 Way, hey, and up she rises,  
 Way, hey, and up she rises,  
 Early in the morning.
2. Put him in the longboat and make him bail her, (3 times)  
 Early in the morning.
3. What shall we do with a drunken soldier? (3 times)  
 Early in the morning.
4. Put him in the guardroom 'til he's sober, (3 times)  
 Early in the morning.