

**a** In this song the singer's new lover gives examples of how a man can leave his lover.

Listen to the song, and answer the questions.

- 1 Where is the problem, according to the woman?  
How does she think the man will find the solution?
- 2 What do you think these phrases in the second verse mean?  
*It's really not my habit to intrude.*  
*I hope my meaning won't be lost or misconstrued.*
- 3 Write down two of the men's names you can hear in the chorus, and one of the ways that they leave their lover.
- 4 How does the man seem to feel about breaking up with his partner?
- 5 In the final verse, what does she suggest they both do?  
What does she think will happen in the morning?

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**b** Now listen again with the lyrics and check your answers.

## 50 Ways to Leave Your Lover

'The problem is all inside your head,' she said to me  
'The answer is easy if you take it logically  
I'd like to help you in your struggle to be free  
There must be fifty ways to leave your lover.'

She said 'it's really not my habit to intrude  
Furthermore, I hope my meaning won't be lost or  
misconstrued  
So I'll repeat myself, at the risk of being crude  
There must be fifty ways to leave your lover  
Fifty ways to leave your lover.'

### Chorus

You just slip out the back, Jack  
Make a new plan, Stan  
You don't need to be coy, Roy  
Just listen to me / Just get yourself free  
Hop on the bus, Gus  
You don't need to discuss much  
Just drop off the key, Lee  
And get yourself free.

Ooo slip out the back, Jack  
Make a new plan, Stan  
You don't need to be coy, Roy  
Just listen to me  
Hop on the bus, Gus  
You don't need to discuss much  
Just drop off the key, Lee  
And get yourself free.



She said 'It grieves me so to see you in such pain  
I wish there was something I could do to make you  
smile again.'  
I said 'I appreciate that and would you please explain  
About the fifty ways?'

She said 'Why don't we both just sleep on it tonight  
And I believe in the morning you'll begin to see the  
light?'  
And then she kissed me and I realized she probably  
was right  
There must be fifty ways to leave your lover  
Fifty ways to leave your lover.

### Chorus



**c** Look at the highlighted phrases, and with a partner say what you think they mean.

### Song facts

This song, from the album *Still Crazy After All These Years*, was a big hit for the singer Paul Simon. In a 1975 interview, Simon told the story of this song: 'I woke up one morning in my apartment on Central Park and the opening words just popped into my mind: "The problem is all inside your head, she said to me..." That was the first thing I thought of. So I just started building on that line.' According to Simon's younger brother Eddie (from the same interview), Paul made this song up while teaching his son how to rhyme.