

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?

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.

SOLUTIONS OF SONG 2

50 WAYS TO LEAVE YOUR LOVER

1 The problema is in the man's head. He will find the solution by thinking logically.

2 I don't usually interfere in other people's problems. I hope what I am saying won't be misunderstood / misinterpreted.

3 Jack, Stan, Roy, Gus, Lee.

Slip out the back / Make a new plan / Hop on the bus / Drop off the key.

4 He feels pain.

5 Go to bed and think about the problema. She thinks that in the morning the man will understand clearly what he has to do.

slip out the back: *slip* = to go somewhere quickly and quietly, especially without being noticed

out the back = out of the back door.

coy = shy or pretending to be shy and innocent, especially about love or sex

Hop on the bus: *hop* = (informal) to jump quickly onto sth. (Hop also means to jump on one foot.)

drop off the key = leave the key somewhere or with sb. Drop off can also be used for leaving people somewhere, e.g. Can you drop me off at the doctor's on your way to work?

It grieves me = (formal, old fashioned) It makes me feel very sad. In other contexts grieve means feel sad after the death of a loved one

sleep on it = to delay making a decision about sth until the next day, so that you have time to think about it

see the light = to finally understand or accept sth, especially sth obvious