

# R&B Song writing

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Hello! I hope you're well today.

Today I'm going to take you through another thinking exercise. You don't need anything for this.

I've been refreshing your memories on song structures. Last week we talked about the pre chorus and today, we're going to look at the **bridge**.

What is a bridge? What purpose does it serve inside of a song?

When we think of the word bridge, we literally think about a structure made out of bricks or wood that connects two sides of land so that we can get to the other side!

This isn't a bad metaphor to understand the musical function it carries.

The bridge usually sits between 2 choruses at the end of the song. It is usually a different melody to the verse and the chorus and is used to build musical suspense before releasing it when we arrive at the final chorus, the big finale of the song.

So what makes bridges so potent? Daniel Levitin, the American neuroscientist, describes it well in his book 'This is Your Brain on Music'. "Music is organised sound, but the organisation has to involve some element of the unexpected or it is emotionally flat and robotic."

let's think about a popular song by the band The Police, 'Every Breath You Take'

This song has a particularly interesting bridge section. Let's take a look at the lyrics and focus on the red highlighted section.

## Every Breath You Take"

Every breath you take  
Every move you make  
Every bond you break  
Every step you take  
I'll be watching you.  
Every single day  
Every word you say  
Every game you play  
Every night you stay  
I'll be watching you.

Oh can't you see  
You belong to me?  
How my poor heart aches with every step you take.

Every move you make  
Every vow you break  
Every smile you fake  
Every claim you stake  
I'll be watching you.

Since you've gone I've been lost without a trace.  
I dream at night, I can only see your face.  
I look around but it's you I can't replace.  
I feel so cold, and I long for your embrace.  
I keep crying baby, baby, please...

Oh can't you see  
You belong to me?  
How my poor heart aches with every step you take.

Every move you make  
Every vow you break  
Every smile you fake  
I'll be watching you

Sting is an amazing songwriter and he really loves to play with melody and key change within his songs. His bridge often creates a huge diversion from the core melody and seamlessly returns to it providing a fantastic build and release for the listener.

I would like to invite you to think about some other songs you think have a strong bridge and see how you can apply the technique to the song you are working on!

