

TUNE INTO ENGLISH

Cher's Believe

Dopo 40 anni di celebrità, la diva californiana conquistò le discoteche e normalizzò l'uso dell'AutoTune rilanciando la sua carriera con questo brano di grande successo.



Left: Cher in 1998 with her album *Believe* (also pictured above).

One of the best-selling singles of all time, *Believe* by the singer Cherilyn Sarkisian, better known as Cher, was a **marked departure**¹ from her usual style. Written eight years earlier, the original songwriter, Brian Higgins, was not happy with the first **demo**² and **enlisted**³ a **further**⁴ three writers to **hone**⁵ the song. When Cher's record company heard it, they decided its theme of **defiance**⁶ in the face of heartbreak was perfect for her, but insisted on adding two more writers! A London-based production team was hired to make a dance record that would **please**⁷ long-time Cher fans. Although the entire team (apart from the singer) was male, the song is an expression of female empowerment.

The lyrics of the song are in the present simple. The narrator has been left by her partner, but tells him that while she has decided to **move on**⁸, she does not think he will be able to.

The electro dance song **pioneered**⁹ the use of Auto-Tune, a **pitch**¹⁰-correction software for vocals, which subsequently became known as the "Cher effect". The producers were concerned that it sounded too robotic, but the singer insisted on it, saying, "It was exactly what we needed to make the really boring verse... sing." She also told *The New York Times* that she'd actually said, "You can change that part of it over my dead body!" ☹

GLOSSARY

- 1 **marked departure:** cambio marcato
- 2 **demo:** campione dimostrativo
- 3 **to enlist:** arruolarsi
- 4 **a further:** altri
- 5 **to hone:** perfezionare
- 6 **defiance:** sfida
- 7 **to please:** soddisfare
- 8 **to move on:** andare avanti
- 9 **to pioneer:** dare inizio
- 10 **pitch:** tono
- 11 **to push aside:** mettere da parte
- 12 **useless:** inutile



LOWER INTERMEDIATE B1

no matter how: this is a more emphatic alternative to 'although' or 'even though', used to say that something is always true or always happens, whatever the circumstances. It is also used with 'wh-' pronouns such as 'who', 'what', 'where' etc.

there's no talking to you: an idiom meaning it's useless¹² to try to discuss something with you.

no turning back: it's impossible to go back.

'cause: an abbreviation of 'because'.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone or tablet and listen to the official song on YouTube while reading the lyrics.

After love, after love
After love, after love

No matter how hard I try
You keep pushing me aside¹¹
And I can't break through
There's no talking to you

It's so sad that you're leaving
It takes time to believe it
But after all is said and done
You're gonna be the lonely one, oh

Chorus
Do you believe in life after love?
I can feel something inside me say
I really don't think you're strong enough, no
Do you believe in life after love?
I can feel something inside me say
I really don't think you're strong enough, no

What am I supposed to do?
Sit around and wait for you?
Well, I can't do that
And there's no turning back.

I need time to move on
I need a love to feel strong
'Cause I've had time to think it through
And maybe I'm too good for you, oh

Do you believe in life after love?
I can feel something inside me say
I really don't think you're strong enough, no
Do you believe in life after love?
I can feel something inside me say
I really don't think you're strong enough, no

Well, I know that I'll get through this
Cause I know that I am strong
And I don't need you anymore
I don't need you anymore
Oh, I don't need you anymore
No, I don't need you anymore

Chorus x 2

break through: a phrasal verb meaning to achieve something. The one-word noun 'breakthrough' means an important development.

after all is said and done: this expression means when a conclusion is reached.

to think it through: 'to think ... through' is a phrasal verb meaning to consider the results of an action.

get through this: 'to get through' is a phrasal verb meaning to survive something.

Fergal Kavanagh runs the website www.tuneintoenglish.com, the web's largest free resource for learning English through pop music.

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