

The Sound of Pop

Pop Music

- Originated in the US and UK during the mid-1950s
- Borrows elements from other styles such as dance, rock, Latin and country
- Noticeable rhythmic element, mainstream style and simple traditional structure with a focus on melodies, catchy hooks and a contrasting chorus
- Continuously evolving
- Uses the guitar, drums, vocals, etc.

Compare and Contrast

- "Twist and Shout" - The Beatles
- "Superstition" - Stevie Wonder
- "Can't Stop the Feeling" - Justin Timberlake
- all can be found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLeDI-nXUk4ApFvQj_qNhsTmyi0tINxYhZ

"Twist and Shout" – The Beatles

This is a cover, meaning the Beatles didn't write the song. The first people to record this song were "The Top Notes" in 1961. Released on [the Beatles'](#) first UK album, [Please Please Me](#) (1963), the complete recording of which on February 11, 1963, was their first album session and is notable for 10 songs recorded in a mere 13 hours. "Twist and Shout", with [John Lennon](#) on lead vocals, was the last song recorded; producer [George Martin](#) knew Lennon's voice would suffer from the performance, so he left it until last, with only 15 minutes of scheduled recording time remaining.

Lennon was suffering from a [cold](#), and was drinking [milk](#) and sucking on [cough drops](#) to soothe his throat. His coughing is audible on the album, as is the cold's effect on his voice. Even so, he produced a memorable vocal performance: a raucous, dynamic rocker. He later said his voice was not the same for a long time afterward, and that "every time [he] swallowed, it felt like sandpaper".



"Superstition" – Stevie Wonder



It was released as the lead single from his fifteenth studio album, *Talking Book* (1972). Wonder wrote this about the dangers of believing in superstitions. Some of the bad luck superstitions he alludes to include walking under a ladder, breaking a mirror (said to bring seven years of bad luck), and the number 13. Wonder performed this song on *Sesame Street* in 1973 during the show's fourth season. It was recorded at the show's New York studios at a time when Wonder and his band were playing lots of gigs, and they treated the *Sesame Street* performance just like any other, extending it to nearly 7 minutes, complete with intricate musical shifts directed by Wonder. [Video of the performance](#) shows kids and puppets having a blast on the set, but the band remained focused, since getting distracted by a monster would not be a valid excuse for missing a change.

"Can't Stop the Feeling" – Justin Timberlake

Can't Stop the Feeling! is a song recorded by American singer-songwriter [Justin Timberlake](#) for [the soundtrack](#) to the film [Trolls](#) (2016). It was written and produced by Timberlake, [Max Martin](#) and [Shellback](#). Musically, it is an uptempo [disco-pop](#), [soul-pop](#) number with [funk](#) influences. The song was released as a single on May 6, 2016. Directed by [Mark Romanek](#), its music video was released on May 16, 2016, and follows Timberlake on a tour to everyday places as he dances through what a typical day might be—it was followed by a number of fan-made videos. "Our task was to write a song that encapsulated the message of the movie, and by the way, we want people to be able to dance to it," Timberlake said on the red carpet leading up to the Oscars. "When I was watching the movie it reminded me of disco, so that's where I got the idea for a modern disco pop song."



Listen & Respond

- Listen to the three songs and respond to these questions:
 - What instruments and sounds were used in each?
 - Describe the tempo (speed) of each song
 - What were the differences between the three songs?
 - What were the similarities between the three songs?
 - Which song was your favorite and why?