

# When The Levee Breaks – Led Zeppelin

Jun 10, 2025, 2:29 PM

Key: Em Capo: 1<sup>st</sup> Fret

| Main Riff  |              |
|------------|--------------|
| e-----     |              |
| B-----     | 2-           |
| G-----     | 2-           |
| D-----     | 2-           |
| A-----     | 2-           |
| E-3p0----- | 3p0-3p0-3p0- |

[Intro]

E7\* – E – E7\*\* – E7\* [18x]

C – D

E7\* – E [4x]

C – D

E7\* – E [4x]

[Verse 1]

E7\* E E7\*\* E  
If it keeps on raining, levee's goin' to break

E7\* E E7\*\* E  
If it keeps on raining, levee's goin' to break

E7\* E E7\*\* E  
When the levee breaks I'll have no place to stay  
E7\* E E7\*\* E7\* [2x]

[Verse 2]

E7\* E E7\*\* E  
Mean old levee taught me to weep and moan, [2x]

E7\* E E7\*\* E  
Got what it takes to make a mountain man leave his home,  
E7\* E E7\* E E7\* E  
Oh, well, oh, well, oh, well.

[Solo]

C D

E7\* – E [4x]

C D

E7\* – E [4x]

E7\* – E – E7\* – B | E7\* – A – D – E

[Bridge]

E7\* E  
Don't it make you feel bad

B  
When you're trying to find your way home,

A D E  
You don't know which way to go?

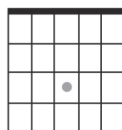
E7\* E  
If you're goin' down South

B  
They got no work to do,

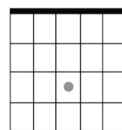
A D E  
If you don't know about Chicago

**Notes:** E7\* = G string 1st fret + A string 2nd fret (2 finger E7 chord)  
E7\*\* = E chord + B string 3rd fret (4 finger E7 chord)  
E chord  
Repeatedly strum E7\* – E – E7\*\* – E7\*. Play around with different combinations for the best effect, de-emphasizing the high E string and emphasizing the low E string

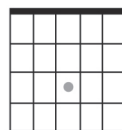
?



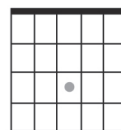
?



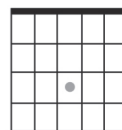
?



?



?



[Solo]

E7\* – E – E7\* – B | E7\* – A – D – E [2x]

E7\* – E – E7\*\* – E7\* [14x]

C – D

E7\* – E [4x]

C – D

E7\* – E [4x]

[Verse 3]

E7\* E E7\*\* E  
Cryin' won't help you, praying won't do you no good,

E7\* E E7\*\* E  
Now, cryin' won't help you, praying won't do you no good,

E7\* E E7\*\* E  
When the levee breaks, mama, you got to move.

E7\* – E – E7\*\* – E7\* [2x]

[Verse 3]

E7\* E E7\*\* E  
All last night sat on the levee and moaned

E7\* E E7\*\* E  
All last night sat on the levee and moaned

E7\* E E7\*\* E  
Thinking about me baby and my happy home.

C – D

E7\* – E [4x]

C – D

E7\* – E [4x]

E7\* – E – E7\* – B | E7\* – A – D – E [2x]

E7\* E E7\* B E7\* A D E [2x]  
Ah ha ah ha ah ha ha ha

E7\* – E – E7\* – B | E7\* – A – D – E

E7\* – E – E7\*\* – E7\* [2x]

Going, going to Chicago... Going to Chicago... sorry but I can't take you...

E7\* E E7\*\* E7\* E  
Going down... going down now... going down....