

Types of Poetry

English 8

Couplet

- A couplet is a poem of two lines that usually rhyme.

WINTER

Winter, winter, you make a glow
You freeze my body with ice and snow.

(Anonymous)



Triplet

- A triplet is a poem of three lines where the first and third lines rhyme:

The stars are diamonds in the sky,
The shells are pearls upon the shore,
The fireflies are rhinestones as they fly.

- A Triplet can also have all three lines rhyme:

A little boy walked down the street,
And who should he suddenly meet,
A nice, new friend with many a treat.

Quatrain

- A quatrain is a poem of four lines often rhyming in different schemes. It is the most common stanza in English poetry:

Butterflies

I love you butterfly,
You are my friend.
I love you butterfly,
Our friendship will never end.

- Here is another example of a quatrain with a different rhyme scheme:

Broccoli

Broccoli is green and cheesy,
It makes some people queasy,
I like broccoli a lot,
Lots of people do not.



Cinquain (I)

A cinquain is a poem of five lines. Each line has something different:

First line: one word with two syllables giving a title.

Second line: two words with four syllables describing the title.

Third line: three words with six syllables expressing action.

Fourth line: four words with eight syllables expressing a feeling.

Fifth line: one word with two syllables as another word for title.

- Here is an example of this type of cinquain:

Kitten
Golden, furry
Playful, running, jumping
Joyful, carefree, loving, friendly
Feline
(anonymous)



Cinquain (II)

A second form of cinquain has the same number of syllables in each line without the actions.

SIMILARITIES

I touch

Two curving things:

The barrel of this pen,

The slow uncertain windings of

This verse.

(Anonymous)

Diamante

- A diamante is a poem of seven lines. The form is in a diamond shape.

Line 1: noun

Line 7: another noun opposite to the noun in line 1.

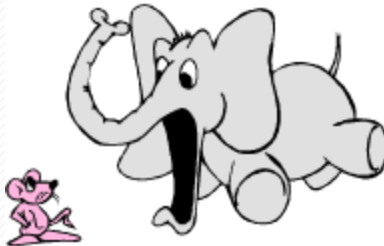
Line 2: two words that describe the noun in line 1.

Line 3: three “ing” or “ed” words that refer to the noun in line 1.

Line 4: four words that refer to both nouns in lines 1 and 7.

Line 5: three “ing” or “ed” words that refer to noun in line 7.

Line 6: two words that describe noun in line 7.



Example One:

City
Busy, crowded
Bustling, moving, exciting
Shopping, working, quiet, peaceful
Relaxing, walking, visiting
Neighbours, farms
Country

Example Two:

Elephant
Huge, gray
Trumpeting, stomping, rearing
Giant Performer; midget rodent
Scurrying, scampering, squeaking
Small, furry
Mouse

Limerick & Nonsense Poem

Limerick: a funny five line poem that rhymes

Nonsense Poem: funny poem with strange things that do not happen.

Example One:

There was a young lady of Niger,
Who smiled as she rode on a tiger.
They returned from the ride
With the lady inside,
And the smile on the face of the tiger.

Example Two:

There was an old man with a beard,
Who said: "It is just as I feared! -
Two Owls and a Hen,
Four Larks and a Wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard!"

Bubble Gum

Mary had some bubble gum,
She chewed it long and slow,
And everywhere that Mary went,
Her gum was sure to go.
She brought her gum to school one day,
Which was against the rule,
The teacher took the gum away,
And chewed it after school.

Haiku & Tanka

Haiku (Three Line Poem)

- Invented centuries ago in Japan.
- Line 1: 5 syllables
- Line 2: 7 syllables
- Line 3: 5 syllables
- Most Haikus about “nature”

Example:

Evening snow falling
Sounds of crunching footsteps near
People walking close

Tanka (Seven Line Poem)

- Also invented in Japan.
- Line 1: 5 syllables
- Line 2: 7 syllables
- Line 3: 5 syllables
- Lines 4 & 5: 7 syllables each

Example:

The crashing of waves
The strong winds blowing freely
The sea birds sing out
The sun shining brightly down
Swimming in the dark blue waves

Lyric Poems

Lyric poems are short poems that seem musical and expresses the poet's emotions about a person, an object, an event or an idea. These come in a number of formats.

Examples of Lyric Poems

- Ode: Serious. Usually praising something or somebody.
- Ballad: Originally a song that told a story. Short verses usually about revenge, crime or love.
- Sonnet: Poem of 14 lines. Rhyme scheme is abab cdcd efef gg. Usually expresses single complete thought, idea or sentiment.