

## Poetry Writing Exercises on a Theme

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Pick one of the following themes to work with and follow the advice in the exercises.

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| • Good Excuses           | • Like a Girl                     | • My Own Worst Enemy  |
| • Lies I Was Told        | • Bad Luck Charms                 | • Coming Clean  |
| • _____ had it Wrong     | • I'm the Villain                 | • What If _____?  |
| • How to _____           | • Recipe for _____                | • _____ is my Religion  |
| • Cheatsheet for _____   | • _____ in # _____                | • Pick any clickbait title on any news website and use that as your starting place. |
| • When Trouble was _____ | ( <i>Walking in 3 Easy Steps</i>  |   |
| • Geography Lesson       | or <i>Being Lazy in 5 Parts</i> ) |   |
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### Exercise One

After choosing a theme above, write a short poem, two stanzas with a couplet in each stanza. So, that's 4 lines total.

### Exercise Two

After choosing a theme above, write an [American Sentence](#) (17 total syllables) or a Haiku (5/7/5 syllabus with traditional nature/spirituality theme).

### Exercise Three

After choosing a theme above, write a poem in which you alternate questions and answers. Each stanza would be a couplet with one question and one answer.

### Exercise Four

After choosing a theme above, write a poem in which you add one word each line. The title line is one word, the 1<sup>st</sup> line is 2 words, the 2<sup>nd</sup> line three words, and so on.

### Exercise Five

After choosing a theme above, write a poem in which you use a pattern, like "this and that." For instance, "pen and paper" or "fire and ice."

### Exercise Six

After choosing a theme above, write a poem in which every line is either true or false.

### Variations on the Exercises

Flip the order of the verbs and nouns in one of the poems you've written here.

Reverse the order of the poem, moving the last line to first.

Change the positive descriptions to negative ones and vice versa.

Add anaphora, use anthimeria, try out asyndeton, create an allusion to a classical text.