

Rhythm Exercises:

Q. Write 4 lines using only 1-syllable words, 4 words each line (making sense isn't important)

Example lines: Cat Ham Ton Neat/ I am too fast

Read all these lines to yourself, or have someone read them to you. What do you hear? What does it sound like to you? Where do we typically use one-syllable words in daily life? When we're angry, excited, giving orders, talking about common objects, etc. (to me, it sounds choppy, harsh, but also gets my attention) These convey emotion, everydayness, also babytalk.

P. Write a poem using only 2-syllable words, 4 lines, 4 words per line

Examples: Brother slogan catching breathing/ Painting always changes colors

Say these or have someone say them to you. Do you hear the "DAH-duh DAH duh" pattern? (or in some cases, the "duh-DAH" pattern) How do these 2-beat rhythms compare to the 1-syllable words' rhythm? [see "Starbucks lovers"]

Oh. The pattern of unstressed-stressed, as in the words "aBOVE," "unTIL," "proVIDE," etc, is symbolized | -- (unstressed syllable, followed by stressed syllable) and is a pattern called iambic. (eye-AM-bik). This can also be expressed in two one-syllable words: "the GOAT," "his CAR"

Write 8 2-syllable iambic-rhythm words: {Listen for the repeated unstressed-stressed (duh-DAH) rhythm}

Example: except until above reduce about {see Ozzy [here](#); the "Starbucks lovers" }

N. Iambs – one line, use 1-syllable AND 2-syllable words, 10 syllables (ex. in songs: "[Closer](#)," "[Havana](#),"

"[Copacabana](#)," "[Enter Sandman](#)," "[Rebel just for kicks](#)")

Example: I WENT to TOWN beCAUSE the TRUCK was STUCK.

M. The pattern of stressed-unstressed, as in the words "brother," "breathing", etc, is symbolized --| (stressed syllable, unstressed syllable) and is called the trochaic (tro-KAY-ic) pattern. Write 1 line, 10 syllables, of trochaic pattern, 1-syllable and 2-syll words:

example: PANcakes ALways SEEM to ____ | ____ | (ex: "[Walk it Like I Talk it](#),")

Say these lines to yourself to hear the sing-song pattern. Do you hear the DAH-duh pattern?

L. Write your full name and mark out the stressed and unstressed syllables:

K. Write 2 more 3-syllable words that fit these patterns and mark the stresses: ([FavThings](#), [YellowBrick](#))

1. 1st syllable stressed: CAN -di-date _____

2. 2nd syllable stressed: to-MOR-row _____

3. 3rd syllable stressed: il- i- NOIS _____
interFERE, volunTEER, interUPT, wolverINE

J. There's rhythm in our everyday speech; it just tends to be less patterned than the words in a poem are. Write a sentence of 8-10 words about what you did last weekend, and mark the words that get stressed as you would naturally say this sentence:

I. Rewrite the sentence in J. in strict iambic rhythm. Change words as needed.

H. Write lyrics to this song rhythm pattern: (the music is the chorus of [this song](#)) [Other song rhythms](#).

1. (4 syllables) | _____ | _____

2. (5 syllables) | _____ | _____ |

3. (4 syllables) | _____ | _____

4. (4 syllables) | _____ | _____

G. Write lyrics to this other song rhythm pattern: ([music pattern here](#), [opera here](#)).

1. _____ | _____ | _____ |

2. _____ | _____ | _____ |

3. _____ | _____ | _____ |

4. _____ | _____ | _____

See also [here](#) for removed words -- the point is that you can sub in any word that has same length & rhythm. charlie Brown [here](#). If you use words that don't fit, you get the "[Starbucks lovers](#)" problem. (stressed "of")