

Limerick

Definition

A limerick is a verse of five lines, usually humorous. Lines one, two, and five rhyme, as do lines three and four (aabba). Some examples vary but the number of syllables usually follow this pattern:

| | | |
|--------|-------------|-----------|
| Line 1 | 8 syllables | A (rhyme) |
| Line 2 | 8 syllables | A (rhyme) |
| Line 3 | 5 syllables | B (rhyme) |
| Line 4 | 5 syllables | B (rhyme) |
| Line 5 | 8 syllables | A (rhyme) |

Example: *Out dining, a young alligator,
When asked if he'd have coffee later,
Just shook his large head
And pleasantly said,
"I was planning on having the waiter."*

Copy the beginning two lines of the limerick, write two internal rhyming lines of your own, and finish with a line that ends with one of the supplied rhyming words from the list.

There once was a barber or two
Who did their work at the zoo

blue, boo, blew, clue, chew, coo, due, do,
few, flew, flu, gnu, glue, hue, moo, new,
knew, shoe, shampoo, subdue, slew, sue,
view, you

A handsome young noble of Spain
Met a lion one day in the rain

again, brain, complain, cane, gain, lane,
main, mane, mundane, pain, pane, remain,
stain, strain, train, vane, vein

There was an old man in the west
Who always was funnily dressed

breast, best, blessed, crest, chest,
confessed, guessed, guest, jest, messed,
nest, pressed, quest, rest, test, vest, zest

Oscar the ostrich did stand
With his head buried deep in the sand

band, bland, brand, canned, demand,
fanned, grand, hand, land, manned,
planned, strand, tanned

A sweet girl named Caroline
Drank a gallon of turpentine

brine, dine, fine, line, mine, nine, pine,
recline, shine, stein, vine, whine

A man with a shiny glass eye
Was always unable to cry

buy, by, die, fry, guy, high, lie, my, pie,
pry, rye, shy, sly, tie, try, thigh, why

Sickly Sam (Sue) had a feverish head
Ate chicken soup and went to bed

ahead, bread, bled, dead, dread, fed, fled,
instead, lead, red, read, shed, shred, said,
tread, thread, wed,

A hurricane scooped up Ned's home
And dropped it up north in Nome

chrome, comb, dome, foam, gnome, poem,
roam, Rome

Ben Franklin was sailing his kite
One dark and most stormy night

bite, bright, delight, fight, flight, height,
invite, insight, light, might, plight, polite,
quite, right, sight, spite, tight, trite, unite,
write

Pinocchio's nose elongated
As he lied and imitated

Baited, dated, equated, estimated, hated,
mated, rated, skated, serrated, waited

Once a poor student in school
Broke a very important rule

cool, cruel, drool, duel, fool, jewel, mule,
pool, spool, stool, tool

One stormy night the S.S. Clarke
Was attacked by a giant shark

ark, bark, dark, hark, lark, mark, park,
remark, spark, stark

There was a young farmer from Meads
Who swallowed a packet of seeds

beads, bleeds, deeds, feeds, leads, needs,
pleads, reeds, reads, speeds, tweeds, weeds

There once was a speedy white hare
Who raced turtles from here to there

bear, beware, bare, care, chair, dare, fair,
hair, mare, pair, pear, rare, stair, stare,
share, tear, ware, wear

There was a young man who was bitten
By forty two cats and a kitten

fittin', getting', hittin', knittin', mitten,
quittin', sittin', smitten, whittlin'

The new beauty queen held her pose
With a crown and a long stemmed rose

blows, bows, chose, clothes, close, doze,
froze, goes, hose, knows, nose, ohs, shows,
slows, sews, toes, those, woes

Once an old man in Peru
Found something strange in his stew

achoo, blue, blew, chew, clue, crew, few,
flu, flew, due, do, dew, glue, goo, hue,
moo, new, knew, residue, slew, shoe, two,
view, zoo