



# Rhyme Schemes

Rhyming words are words that sound the same at the ends, such as cat / hat, or jumping / bumping.

When a poem has rhyming words at the **ends of lines**, these are called "end rhymes." Here is an example of end rhyme:

My cat is nice.  
My cat likes mice.

A "rhyme scheme" is a way of describing the pattern of **end rhymes** in a poem. Each new sound at the end of a line is given a letter, starting with "A," then "B," and so on. If an end sound repeats the end sound of an earlier line, it gets the same letter as the earlier line.

Here are three slightly different cat poems, each with a different rhyme scheme. The first is **AABB**, the second is **ABAB**, and the third is **ABCB**):

My cat is <u>nice</u> .      A	My cat is <u>nice</u> .      A	My cat is <u>gray</u> .      A
My cat likes <u>mice</u> . A	My cat is <u>fat</u> .      B	My cat is <u>fat</u> .      B
My cat is <u>fat</u> .      B	My cat likes <u>mice</u> . A	My cat is <u>cute</u> .      C
I like my <u>cat</u> .      B	I like my <u>cat</u> .      B	I like my <u>cat</u> .      B

## Exercise:

1. Read the following poems by Kenn Nesbitt.
2. For each poem, identify the rhyme scheme and write it below the poem.

### Mr. Brown the Circus Clown

Mr. Brown, the circus clown A  
puts his clothes on upside down. A  
He wears his hat upon his toes B  
and socks and shoes upon his nose. B

Rhyme scheme: AABB

### My Penmanship is Pretty Bad

My penmanship is pretty bad.  
My printing's plainly awful.  
In truth, my writing looks so sad  
it ought to be unlawful.

Rhyme scheme: ABAB

### All My Great Excuses

I started on my homework A  
but my pen ran out of ink. B  
My hamster ate my homework. A  
My computer's on the blink. B

Rhyme scheme: ABAB

### Today I Had a Rotten Day

Today I had a rotten day.  
As I was coming in from play  
I accidentally stubbed my toes  
and tripped and fell and whacked my nose.

Rhyme scheme: AABB

## Independent Practice

Find the rhyme scheme for the following poems. Use letters for words that sound alike, or rhyme. The letter A represents the first group of sounds, the letter B represents the second group, continuing until the end of the poem.

### **Lobster Quadrille from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland***

*by Lewis Carroll*

"Will you walk a little faster?" said a whiting to a snail.  
"There's a porpoise close behind us, and he's treading on my tail.  
See how eagerly the lobsters and the turtles all advance!  
They are waiting on the shingle—will you come and join the dance?  
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, will you join the dance?  
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, won't you join the dance?  
"You can really have no notion how delightful it will be  
When they take us up and throw us, with the lobsters, out to sea!"  
But the snail replied "Too far, too far!" and gave a look askance—  
Said he thanked the whiting kindly, but he would not join the dance.  
Would not, could not, would not, could not, would not join the dance.  
Would not, could not, would not, could not, could not join the dance.  
"What matters it how far we go?" his scaly friend replied.  
"There is another shore, you know, upon the other side.  
The further off from England the nearer is to France—  
Then turn not pale, beloved snail, but come and join the dance.  
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, will you join the dance?  
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, won't you join the dance?"

A  
A  
B  
B  
B  
B  
C  
C  
B  
B  
B  
B  
D  
D  
B  
B  
B  
B

[illegible]



