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The Rhyme Writing Guide for 2026

A rhyme is two words that sound alike at the end. Good rhymes make a poem, a song or a rap easy to remember. This guide covers the four kinds of rhyme, how to hear a rhyme, rhyme schemes, how to use rhymes in a line, and a page to plan your own verse.

The four kinds of rhyme

Kind	What it is	Example
Perfect	The same sound from the stressed vowel to the end	cat / hat, night / light
Slant	Close, but not the same sound	heart / hurt, storm / warm
End	Rhymes at the end of two lines	Songs, ballads, sonnets
Internal	A rhyme inside one line	I went to town to buy a gown

How to hear a rhyme

1. **Say it out loud.** Spelling lies: "love" and "move" look alike but do not rhyme.
2. **Find the stressed sound.** In "tonight" the stress is on "night", so "light" and "bright" rhyme with it.
3. **Count the syllables.** "Delight" (2) fits a line better than "light" (1) when you need one more beat.
4. **Try a slant rhyme.** When no perfect rhyme fits, a near sound keeps the line natural.

Rhyme schemes

AABB (couplet): lines 1 and 2 rhyme, then 3 and 4. Easy and catchy, good for rap verses and short poems. **ABAB (alternate):** lines 1 and 3 rhyme, and 2 and 4. Good for songs and ballads. **ABBA (enclosed):** the outer lines rhyme around the inner pair, as in sonnets. **AAA (triplet):** three rhyming lines in a row for a big finish.

Using rhymes in a line

Put the rhyme last. The beat lands on the end of a line, so the rhyme is heard. **Meaning first:** pick the rhyme that says what you mean, not only the one that sounds best. **Mix them:** a slant rhyme between perfect ones keeps a verse fresh. **Read it aloud:** if you trip over a line, change a word.

Mistakes to avoid

Forced rhymes: a strange word in the wrong place sounds like a rhyme dictionary. **The same rhyme again and again:** "love / above" in every verse gets tired. **Twisted word order:** "to the store did I go" just to rhyme. Rewrite the line instead.

Plan your next verse

Fill this in, then find your rhymes on the Free AI Rhyme Generator.

The word you want to rhyme, and what the verse is about

Your rhyme scheme and your four best rhymes

Your first four lines

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