

Write a Limerick

Try your hand at writing a limerick this week. Limericks follow a very specific rhyme and rhythm.

Read this old limerick by Edward Lear (1812–1888) who published a book of limericks. Notice the words that rhyme:

There was an Old Man with a **beard**,
Who said, “It is just as I **feared**!
Two Owls and a **Hen**,
Four Larks and a **Wren**,
Have all built their nests in my **beard!**”

The words at the end of lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme, and the words at the end of lines 3 and 4 make another rhyme.

Also pay attention to the rhythm. It goes like this:

da DUM da da DUM da da DUM
da DUM da da DUM da da DUM
da DUM da da DUM
da DUM da da DUM
da DUM da da DUM da da DUM

How do you write a limerick? First, choose a person or a place to write about. Any name, city, or country will work. It is easier to do with one-syllable names (like Dan or Tom), but any will work. Let’s try it with “Kyle.”

There once was a fellow named **Kyle**,

Now think of some words that rhyme with Kyle: mile, style, file, pile, rile, tile, vile, while, revile (You can find a rhyming dictionary online to help you.) Use one of those rhyming words to write the second line:

Who was sure he could sprint for a **mile**.

Now think of a story that could go with Kyle thinking he could sprint (run fast) for a mile. The words at the end of these two lines need to rhyme.

He started out **fine**,
But soon he did **whine**,

Now go back to the first list of words that rhyme with Kyle, and use that to finish off the last line:

And announced that racing was **vile**.

Give it a try!