




A limerick is a form of poem which has the following characteristics:

- > They are often silly and humorous.
- > They have a total of five lines.
- > They have the rhyme scheme AABBA.
- > Traditionally, they start with the phrase, "There (once) was a..."
- > The 3rd & 4th lines are shorter, usually 5-6 syllables each.
- > The 1st, 2nd and 5th lines usually have 8-9 syllables each.




The following limericks are from Edward Lear's *A Book of Nonsense*, which popularised limerick poems when it was released in 1846:



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."

There was a Young Lady whose chin
Resembled the point of a pin;
So she had it made sharp,
And purchased a harp,
And played several tunes with her chin.



CHALLENGE ONE

Complete the limericks!

Here are some examples of limericks which are missing some lines.
Can you complete them with your own ideas?



There once was a mischievous man,
Who went by the first name of Dan,
He went on a quest,
In a flamboyant vest,
...?

I once had a really good mate,
Who was running a little bit late,
...
...
...?

CHALLENGE TWO



Rhyming practice!

Rhyming is an important part of limericks. Practise your rhyming by writing as many words as you can which rhyme with the words below.

Chair

Plate

Frame

Bag

CHALLENGE THREE

Write your own limerick!

When writing limericks, it can be useful to think of lots of rhyming words before you start.
Use your word banks above to write your own limerick!