

Rhyming words: the list by word family

Two words rhyme when their LAST STRESSED VOWEL SOUND and everything after it match: cat/hat, delight/tonight, ocean/motion. Sound, not spelling: through, blue, shoe and two rhyme; cough, bough, dough and tough do not. The first consonant must differ (cat/cat is repetition, not rhyme).

Family	Words	Family	Words
-at	cat, hat, bat, rat, mat, sat, flat, chat	-ame	name, game, same, came, flame, frame, blame
-an	can, man, pan, ran, fan, van, plan, than	-ate	gate, late, date, hate, plate, skate, state
-ap	cap, map, tap, nap, lap, clap, snap, trap	-ay	day, say, play, way, stay, may, away, today
-ag	bag, tag, rag, wag, flag, drag, snag	-ail	mail, tail, nail, sail, rail, snail, trail
-ad	bad, dad, had, mad, sad, glad, pad	-ain	rain, train, pain, main, brain, chain, plain
-am	ham, jam, ram, clam, slam, swam	-eat	eat, seat, heat, meat, neat, beat, treat
-et	pet, net, wet, jet, get, let, met, set	-eep	sleep, deep, keep, sheep, sweep, creep, steep
-en	hen, pen, ten, men, den, then, when	-ight	light, night, right, bright, fight, sight, flight
-ed	bed, red, fed, led, shed, sled, bread, head	-ide	ride, hide, side, wide, slide, bride, pride
-ig	big, dig, pig, wig, fig, jig, twig	-ine	line, fine, mine, nine, shine, pine, vine
-in	pin, win, tin, fin, bin, chin, grin, thin	-oat	boat, coat, goat, float, note, vote, wrote
-ip	hip, lip, dip, rip, sip, tip, zip, chip, ship	-ow	snow, grow, slow, show, know, blow, flow
-it	sit, hit, bit, fit, kit, lit, pit, quit	-old	cold, gold, hold, bold, fold, sold, told
-ill	hill, fill, will, bill, still, chill, spill	-ook	book, look, cook, took, hook, shook, brook
-og	dog, log, fog, hog, jog, frog, clog	-oon	moon, soon, noon, spoon, balloon, June
-op	hop, top, mop, pop, stop, shop, drop, chop	-all	ball, call, fall, tall, wall, small, hall
-ot	hot, pot, dot, got, lot, not, spot, knot	-ing	sing, ring, king, wing, bring, thing, spring
-ug	bug, hug, mug, rug, jug, tug, plug, snug	-ack	back, pack, sack, black, crack, snack, track
-un	sun, fun, run, bun, spun, begun	-ick	kick, pick, sick, stick, trick, quick, brick
-ut	cut, hut, nut, shut, strut	-ock	rock, sock, lock, clock, block, knock, flock
-ake	cake, lake, make, take, bake, wake, shake, snake	-unk	junk, bunk, trunk, skunk, chunk, dunk

Rhymes for the twenty words people ask about

Word	Rhymes	Word	Rhymes
love	above, dove, glove, of, shove; (slant) enough	you	true, blue, new, through, do, too, view, few, knew
time	climb, rhyme, chime, crime, prime, sublime, lime	me	be, see, free, tree, three, agree, key, sea, we
day	away, say, play, stay, way, today, okay, delay	life	knife, wife, strife, rife
night	light, bright, right, sight, flight, white, tonight	world	curled, hurled, swirled, twirled, unfurled
heart	start, part, art, smart, apart, chart, depart	rain	again, pain, train, plain, remain, explain, brain
friend	end, send, bend, spend, pretend, mend, depend	eyes	skies, rise, surprise, lies, wise, realise, prize
dream	seem, team, stream, beam, gleam, scream, extreme	fire	higher, desire, tire, wire, inspire, choir, entire
sun	fun, run, done, one, none, begun, won	go	know, show, slow, grow, below, although, ago
star	far, are, car, guitar, bar, jar, afar	fly	sky, high, by, why, goodbye, reply, cry, eye
home	roam, foam, dome, comb, chrome; (near) poem	true	you, blue, new, through, do, knew, few, pursue

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The types of rhyme, the rhyme schemes, the words with no rhyme, and practice

Type	Means	Examples
perfect (full) rhyme	the sounds match exactly from the stressed vowel on	moon, June; delight, tonight
slant (near, half) rhyme	almost match: same consonants or similar vowels	moon, bone; shape, keep; Dickinson's favourite
eye rhyme	the spelling matches, the sound does not	love, move; cough, bough
identical rhyme	the same word or syllable repeated	night, night
rich rhyme	different words that sound alike	pair, pear; write, right
end rhyme	at the ends of lines	the normal kind in songs
internal rhyme	inside a line	'while I pondered, weak and weary' (Poe)
masculine rhyme	one stressed final syllable	cat, hat; delight, tonight
feminine rhyme	a stressed then an unstressed syllable	ocean, motion; forever, together

Rhyme schemes: lines that rhyme share a letter

Scheme	Pattern	Used in
AABB	couplets	nursery rhymes, Dr Seuss, rap
ABAB	alternating	ballads, hymns, song verses, Shakespeare's quatrains
ABBA	enclosed	Tennyson; the Petrarchan octave ABBAABBA
ABCB	only lines 2 and 4 rhyme	most ballads and nursery rhymes
AABBA	the limerick	five lines, 3 and 4 shorter
ABAB CDCD EFEF GG	three quatrains and a couplet	the Shakespearean sonnet
none	free verse	most modern poetry

No perfect rhyme: orange, silver, purple, month (also angel, chimney, circus, penguin, wolf, ninth). Use a slant rhyme (orange / door hinge, purple / hurtle), move the word off the line end, or a two-word rhyme (a month / the front).

Practice

- Which rhyme with 'light': bite, white, sit, kite, late?
- Four words that rhyme with 'cake'.
- Do 'love' and 'move' rhyme? What kind?
- Rhyme scheme of 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star / How I wonder what you are / Up above the world so high / Like a diamond in the sky'?
- 'ocean / motion': masculine or feminine?
- Find the internal rhyme: 'I bring fresh showers for the thirsting flowers.'
- Write a rhyming couplet about rain.
- Which has no perfect rhyme: apple, orange, banana?

Answers

- bite, white, kite
- lake, make, take, snake
- only as an eye rhyme (also counted as slant)
- AABB
- feminine
- showers / flowers
- any pair with matching end sounds
- orange

My couplet, line 1: _____

Line 2: _____