

Scansion Practice: Finding the Emphasised Syllables

Open a word document and complete the following steps for EACH of the verses listed on the other side of this page.

1. Create a table and place each separate SYLLABLE (not word) from the poem into a new cell in the table. An example is listed below, but I will demonstrate how to do this on the board if you are still unsure.
2. Next, highlight or bold the emphasised syllable in every line.
3. Try and find the pattern, then use the definitions below to try and name the meter of this poem. Remember, you are looking for an OVERALL pattern – don't worry if it's not perfect.

EXAMPLE: THE WALRUS AND THE CARPENTER

1. The Walrus and the Carpenter were walking close at hand
They wept like anything to see such quantities of sand.
"If all this sand were cleared away," they said, "it would be grand."

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|------|------|------|------|------|---------|------|------|------|-------|-----|-------|----|-------|
| The | Wal- | -rus | and | the | Car- | pen- | -ter | were | walk | ing | close | at | hand |
| They | wept | like | an- | y | thing | to | see | such | quan- | ti- | ties | of | sand |
| If | all | this | sand | were | cleared | a- | way | they | said | it | would | be | grand |

Meter: iambic heptameter

one foot = monometer
two feet = dimeter
three feet = trimeter
four feet = tetrameter
five feet = pentameter
six feet = hexameter
seven feet = heptameter
eight feet = octameter

FEET

Trochee (DAH-da) e.g. TROphy

Iamb (da-DAH) e.g. inDEED

Spondee (DAH-DAH) e.g. TV

Dactyl (DAH-da-da) e.g. CERtainly

Anapest (da-da-DAH) e.g. interrupt

(Trochaic, iambic, dactylic, anapestic, spondaic)



PRACTICE:

1. The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Meter: _____

2. Up the mountain,
Down the valley
Steadily the
Train chugs onwards.

Meter: _____

3. Keen as are the arrows of that silver sphere,
Whose intense lamp narrows in the white dawn clear,
Higher still and higher from the earth thou springest,
Singing still dost soar, and soaring ever singest.

Meter: _____

4. There was once an old man from Peru,
Who had dreamed he was eating his shoe,
He awoke in the night,
With a terrible fright,
And he found out that it was quite true.

Meter: _____

5. Are you still standing there, east of the Garden of Eden, or
Were you relieved by the flood that revised our geography?
Cherubim tasked with protecting the Tree of Life, surely you
Saw when that tree was returned to us, lifting our Lord on it?

Meter: _____

6. I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
That music hath a far more pleasing sound;
I grant I never saw a goddess go;
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.

Meter: _____

7. I am monarch of all I survey,
My right there is none to dispute!
From the centre all round to the seas,
I am lord of the fowl and the brute

Meter: _____

8. Those drops, like tears from heaven fell this dreary day
I see the puddles forming dimpled with the rain
And with no sun or sky of blue, my heart does play
With sadness while my mood reflects my inner pain

Meter: _____