

KINDS OF METRICAL LINES: The basic kinds of metrical lines are:

- A. monometer—one-foot line
- B. dimeter—two-foot line
- C. trimeter—three-foot line
- D. tetrameter—four-foot line

- E. pentameter—five-foot line
- F. hexameter—six-foot line
- G. heptameter—seven-foot line
- H. octometer—eight-foot line

A. **MONOMETER:** Following is an example of iambic monometer from a poem by Robert Herrick.

"UPON HIS DEPARTURE"

Thus I
Pass by
And die,
As one,
Unknown
And gone.

B. **DIMETER:** Below is an example of a poem in trochaic dimeter by Richard Armour.

"MONEY"

Workers earn it,
Spendthrifts burn it
Bankers lend it,
Women spend it,
Forgers fake it,
I could use it.

C. **TRIMETER:** Following is an example of iambic trimeter from a poem by Robert Bridges.

"THE IDLE LIFE I LEAD"

The idle life I lead
Is like a pleasant sleep,
Wherein I rest and head
The dreams that by me sweep.

D. **TETRAMETER:** Below is an example of iambic tetrameter by Henry Leigh.

"NOT QUITE FAIR"

The hills, the meadows, and the lakes,
Enchant not for their own sweet sakes.
They cannot know, they cannot care
To know that they are thought so fair.

E. **PENTAMETER:** Some quotations from Alexander Pope illustrate iambic pentameter.

What oft was thought, but ne'er so well express'd.
The bookful blockhead, ignorantly read,
With loads of learned lumber in his head.

F. HEXAMETER: (sometimes called an alexandrine)

If hunger, proverbs say, allures the wolf from wood,
Much more the bird must dare a dash at something good.

G. HEPTAMETER: The iambic heptameter example is from a poem by Ernest Thayer.

"CASEY AT THE BAT"

It looked extremely rocky for the Mudville nine that day,
The score stood four to six with but an inning left to play:

H. OCTOMETER: Below is an example from a poem by E. A. Poe to illustrate trochaic octometer.

"THE RAVEN"

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,

VERSE FORMS: The kinds of verse forms based on meter and rhyme are (A) rhymed verse, (B) blank verse, and (C) free verse.

RHYMED VERSE: consists of verse with end rhyme and usually with a regular meter

BLANK VERSE: consists of lines of iambic pentameter without end rhyme.

FREE VERSE: consists of lines that do not have a regular meter and do not contain rhyme.

SYLLABIC VERSE: A metrical system which depends solely on syllable count, and which takes no account of stress. This is the norm in most Romance languages (French, Italian, Spanish), but is unusual (and almost always consciously experimental) in English.