SONGWRITING PRINTABLE · RHYMEFORGE

Rhyme types *cheat sheet*

Five ways two words can rhyme, from tightest to loosest, plus two terms you will meet everywhere.

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TIGHTEST — LOOSEST

1 Perfect rhyme

FULL OR TRUE RHYME

Same stressed vowel and every sound after it; a different sound just before it.

We split the bill the night we met, / and I'm still paying off that debt.

met / debt
NOT PERFECT: LIGHT / DELIGHT

2 Family rhyme

Same vowel; the final consonants are close relatives, such as M, N and NG, or a voiced and unvoiced pair like D and T.

I carried all your letters home / and stacked them by the fire like stone.

home / stone
ALSO: RIDES / NIGHTS

3 Additive & subtractive

Same vowel and ending, with a consonant added at the end (additive) or dropped (subtractive).

Tell me if you're going to stay; / you always ask me when it's late.

stay / late
DROPPED: MIND / LINE

4 Assonance

Only the stressed vowel matches; the consonants around it are unrelated.

We drove out to the lake / and waited out the rain.

lake / rain
VOWEL ECHO

5 Consonance

Only the final consonants match; the vowels before them differ.

Your voice was cold; / the room went wild.

cold / wild
CONSONANT ECHO

Slant rhyme

ALSO NEAR OR HALF RHYME

The umbrella term for any rhyme that comes close without being perfect: types 2 to 5 above.

You kept the lights off in your heart; / I learned to find my way in the dark.

heart / dark

Internal rhyme

A rhyme inside a line, between a word in the middle and another later in the line or in the next one.

The rain on the pane kept time with the train.

rain / pane / train

1 · MEAN IT
Write the line you actually mean before you look for a rhyme.

2 · FIND THE SOUND
The rhyme sound runs from the last stressed vowel to the end of the word.

3 · WORK DOWN
Try each type in order until a word fits the meaning as well as the sound.

Types follow Pat Pattison's rhyme scheme. Every example is an original line, checked in RhymeForge's rhyme engine.