

## RHYME BASICS

Rhyme is about stressed syllables – the syllables that have a bit of extra weight when they're spoken:

E-LITE  
CI-TY  
IN-FLA-TA-BLE

In a nutshell, two words rhyme when everything from the final stressed syllable onwards in both words is identical, *except* for the opening consonant sound:

BEAT  
STREET  
EAT  
RE-CEIPT  
IN-COM-PLETE

The number of unstressed syllables before doesn't matter. The spelling doesn't matter either – only the sound. And that sound can be made up of one consonant sound (BEAT), multiple consonant sounds (STREET), or no consonant sound at all (EAT).

### Perfect Rhymes

The truest, purest type of rhyme. Two words are Perfect Rhymes when everything from their last stressed syllable onwards sounds identical *except* for the consonant sound that begins that last stressed syllable.

*e.g. BEAT, STREET, ELITE*

### Near Rhymes (also Half Rhymes, Slant Rhymes)

A less pure but often very effective type of rhyme. Two words are Near Rhymes when everything from their last stressed syllable onwards sounds almost identical *except* for the consonant sound that begins that last stressed syllable.

*e.g. BEAT, DEED, SHEETS, LATE*

### Masculine Rhymes

Rhymes where the stress falls on the final syllable.

*e.g. BEAT, STREET, ELITE*

### Feminine Rhymes

Rhymes where the stress falls on the second-to-last syllable.

*e.g. CITY, PRETTY, COMMITTEE*

# Rhyme: Some Definitions

## Triple Rhymes

Rhymes where the stress falls on the third-to-last syllable.

*e.g. DATABLE, RELATABLE,  
INFLATABLE*

## Composite Rhymes (also Mosaic Rhymes)

Rhymes that are made up of multiple words.

*e.g. BE 'EM, MUSEUM,  
GUARANTEE 'EM*

## Identities

Words that almost rhyme but don't because their last stressed syllable sound begins with the same consonant. Most songwriters avoid Identities.

*e.g. SEAT, RECEIPT  
e.g. LEAVE, BELIEVE*

## Rhyme Scheme

The pattern of where rhymed words occur in a lyric. It's normal to adopt and stick to a particular rhyme scheme within any given section and any time it repeats.

## Internal Rhymes

When the Rhyme Scheme has rhyming words within a single line. Usually gives a line a bit of a bounce.