

In trying out the P+X technique, in which X is an alternative probability rank for substituting the last word of each line for the poem “The Snow Man” by Wallace Stevens, I experimented with a few different X values. I found that as X increases, the output was less and less coherent, but the unpredictability and comedic value would rise. For example, the P+7 version was still somewhat coherent, maintaining some grammatical and even thematic sense, such as "oil" instead of "powdered" or "shots" instead of "voice." When I increased the X value to 20 or 21, the substitutions started becoming more unexpected but entertaining, like "steel" for "mind," "car" for "sound," and "phone" for "voice." For me, I felt like these alternatives gave the poem a more mechanical almost dystopian feeling. At an even higher value like P+45, the output became more chaotic and nonsensical, with word choices like "fucking" and an incomplete "b." I found this result hilarious, but also it was glitchy and surreal.

To implement the P+7 technique while targeting nouns specifically, a somewhat more involved / structured approach would be required. I imagine this would involve using a part-of-speech tagger in order to identify all the nouns in the poem and replacing only those with their seventh-highest probability alternative nouns.