

Prosody Reference

Rhyme Schemes

AABBA	limerick
ABAB CDCD	quatrain
AA BB CC DD	rhyming couplets
ABAB CDCD EFEF GG	Shakespearean sonnet
ABAB BCBC CDCD EE	Spenserian sonnet
AAA BBB CCC	tercet, triplets
ABA BCB CDC	terza rima

Metrical Lines

one-foot	monometer
two-foot	dimeter
three-foot	trimeter
four-foot	tetrameter
five-foot	pentameter
six-foot	hexameter (optionally called an alexandrine for pure iambic lines)
seven-foot	heptameter
eight-foot	octameter

Feet

Disyllables

∪∪	pyrrhus, dibrach
∪—	iamb (or iambus or jambus)
—∪	trochee, choree (or choreus)
— —	spondee

Tetrasyllables

∪∪∪∪	tetrabrach, proceleusmatic
—∪∪∪	primus paeon
∪—∪∪	secundus paeon
∪∪—∪	tertius paeon
∪∪∪—	quartus paeon
— —∪∪	major ionic, double trochee
∪∪— —	minor ionic, double iamb
—∪—∪	ditrochee
∪—∪—	diiamb
—∪∪—	choriamb
∪— —∪	antispast
∪— — —	first epitrite
—∪— —	second epitrite
— —∪—	third epitrite
— — —∪	fourth epitrite
— — — —	dispondee

Trisyllables

∪∪∪	tribrach
—∪∪	dactyl
∪—∪	amphibrach
∪∪—	anapest, antidactylus
∪— —	bacchius
—∪—	cretic, amphimacer
— —∪	antibacchius
— — —	molossus