

LIMERICKS.

p.1.

*limerick* - *n.* a five-line humorous poem or stanza with regular meter, rhyme patterns, and punning wordplay, often with risqué subject matter, and typically opening with a line such as "There once was a lady called Jenny."

The snappy five-line poems probably came from the streets and in the taverns of 14th century Britain. Over time, adults and children from all walks of life have delighted in witty limericks.

Writing a Limerick

Limericks are "closed form" poems that adhere to the following strict guidelines. The rhyme scheme is always AABBA.

1. The last word in lines 1 (A), 2 (A), and 5 (A) must rhyme with each other and contain 8-9 syllables each.
2. The last word in lines 3 (B) and 4 (B) must rhyme with each other and contain 5-6 syllables each.

But many poets bend some of the rules giving rise to other variations of the form.

*rhyme* - *n.* a poem with a pattern of similar sounds at the ends of lines.

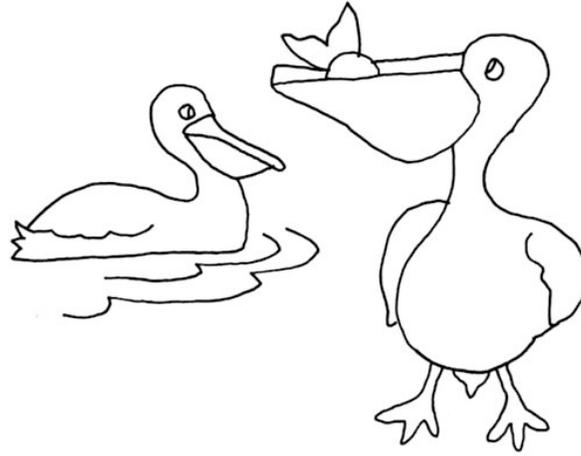
LIMERICKS cont'd.



<http://www.clipartkid.com/clip-art-bucket-water-fight-cliparts/>

	<u>rhyming</u> <u>words</u>	<u>rhyme</u> <u>scheme</u>
There once was a man from Nantucket	A	9
Who kept all his cash in a bucket.	A	9
But his daughter, named Nan,	B	6
Ran away with a man,	B	6
And as for the bucket, Nantucket.	A	9

This earliest published American limerick appeared in 1902 in the Princeton Tiger.



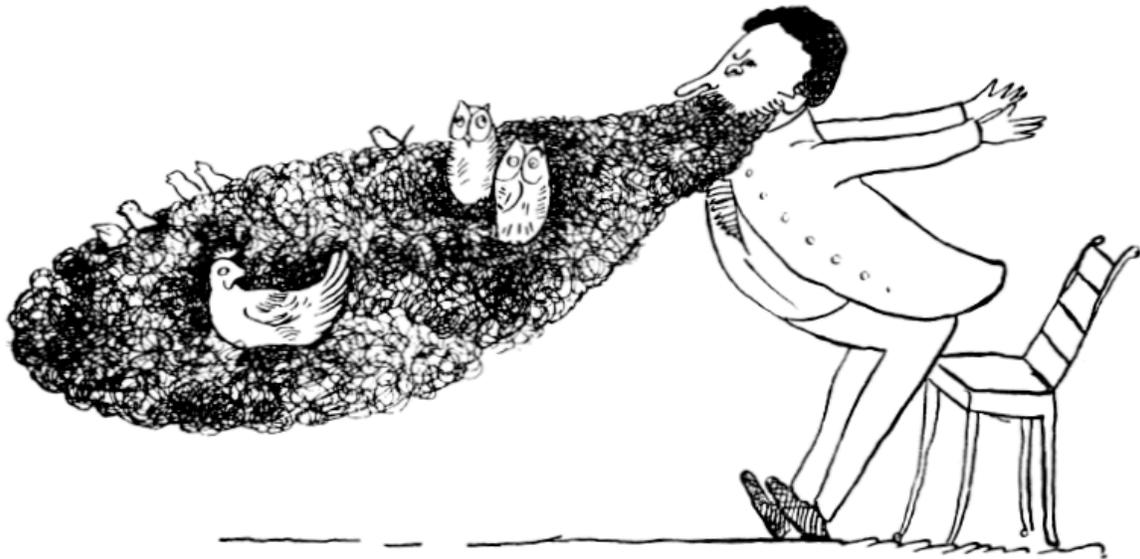
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**A wonderful bird is the pelican,  
His beak can hold more than his beli-can;  
He can hold in his beak,  
Enough food for a week,  
Though I'm damned if I see how the heli-can.**

**- Dixon Lanier Merritt (1879-1972)  
American poet and humorist.**

(the poem is often incorrectly ascribed to Ogden Nash and is widely misquoted)

Merritt was born Dixon Lanier Abernathy. At age 21, he legally changed his surname to Merritt, something he said he regretted later in life. He was a newspaper editor for the Tennessean, Nashville's morning paper, and President of the American Press Humorists Association. He penned this well-known limerick in 1910.



There was an old man with a beard,  
 Who said, "It is just as I feared! -  
     Two Owls and a Hen,  
     Four Larks and a Wren,  
 Have all built their nests in my beard.

- Edward Lear (1812-1888)  
 English artist, illustrator, musician, author and poet

Lear is known now mostly for his literary nonsense in poetry and prose and especially his limericks, a form he popularized. . He wrote the "Book of Nonsense" in 1846. This was an entire book of silly limericks.



**There was an old man on the border,  
 Who lived in the utmost disorder;  
 He danced with a cat,  
 And made tea with his hat,  
 Which vexed all the folks on the border.**

- Edward Lear (1812-1888)

English artist, illustrator, musician, author and poet

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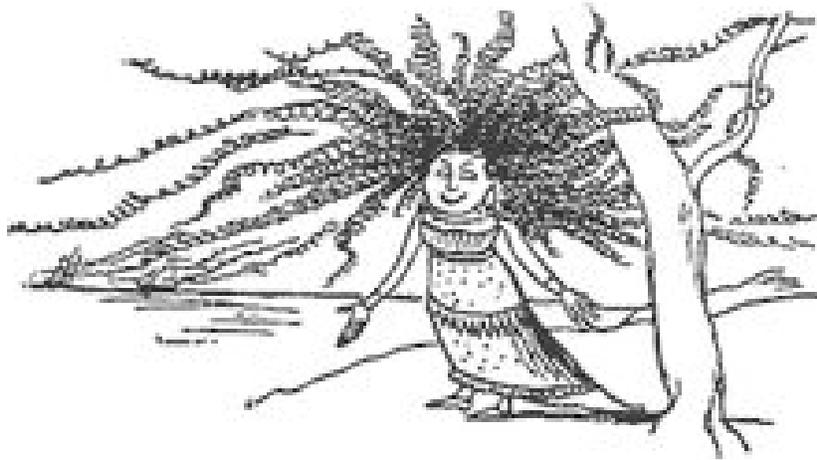


There was a Young Lady whose bonnet  
Came untied when the birds sat upon it;  
But she said, "I don't care!  
All the birds in the air  
Are welcome to sit on my bonnet!"

- Edward Lear (1812-1888)

English artist, illustrator, musician, author and poet

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**There was a Young Lady of Firle,  
Whose hair was addicted to curl;  
It curled up a Tree,  
And all over the sea,  
That explosive Young Lady of Firle.**

**- Edward Lear (1812-1888)  
English artist, illustrator, musician, author and poet**

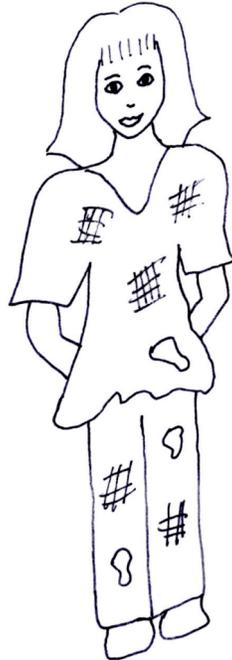
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<http://www.nonsenselit.org/Lear/MN/mn040.html>



An adventurous person named Hamel,  
Traveled thousands of miles on a camel;  
No provisions he took,  
But for bird's eggs he'd look,  
Which he'd boil for himself and his camel.

- An illustrated limerick from a 1908 children's book.

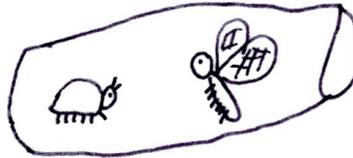


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**There was a young belle of old Natchez  
Whose garments were always in patchez.  
When comments arose  
On the state of her clothes,  
She replied, "When Ah itchez, Ah scratchez."**

- Ogden Nash (1902-1971)  
American writer, humorist.

Nash ignored the "rules" that often result in formal poems. His poems tend to be funny, irreverent, whimsical and "loosey-goosy."



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**A flea and a fly in a flue  
 Were imprisoned, so what could they do?  
 Said the fly, "let us flee!"  
 "Let us fly!" said the flea.  
 So they flew through a flaw in the flue.**

- Ogden Nash (1902-1971)  
 American writer, humorist.

Nash ignored the "rules" that often result in formal poems. His poems tend to be funny, irreverent, whimsical and "loosey-goosy."

Vocabulary:

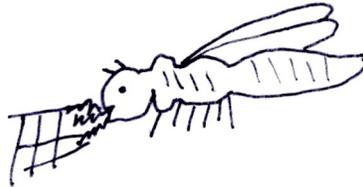
flaw - *n.* a defect in an object that makes it imperfect.

flue - *n.* a shaft, tube, or pipe used as an outlet to carry smoke, gas, or heat from a chimney or furnace.

flee - *v.* to run away from something.

flea - *n.* a small wingless insect with legs adapted for jumping that sucks blood and lives as a parasite on warm-blooded animals.

fly - *v.* 1. A two-winged insect. 2. to travel through the air using wings or an engine; flew is past tense.

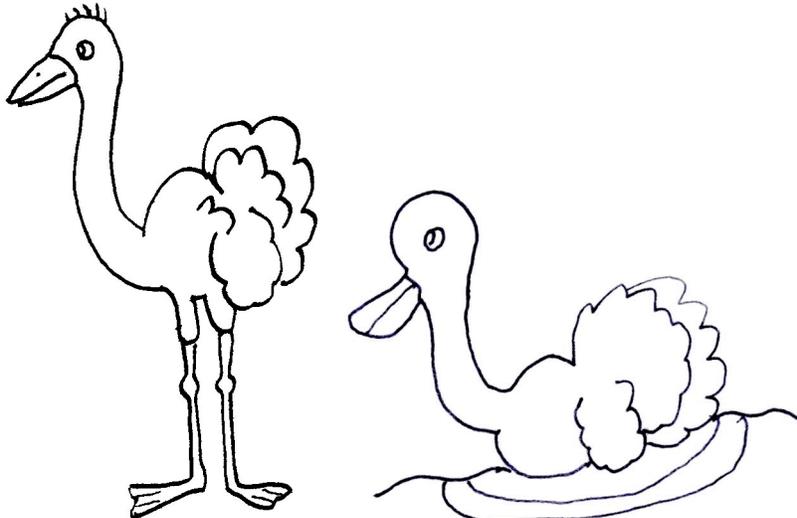


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**Some primal termite knocked on wood  
And tasted it,  
and found it good!  
And that is why your Cousin May  
Fell through the parlor floor today.**

- Ogden Nash (1902-1971)  
American writer, humorist.

Nash ignored the "rules" that often result in formal poems. His poems tend to be funny, irreverent, whimsical and "loosey-goosy."



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**The ostrich roams the great Sahara.  
Its mouth is wide, its neck is narra.  
It has such long and lofty legs,  
I'm glad it sits to lay its eggs.**

- Ogden Nash (1902-1971)  
American writer, humorist.

Nash ignored the "rules" that often result in formal poems. His poems tend to be funny, irreverent, whimsical and "loosey-goosy."



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There was a small boy of Quebec  
 Who was buried in snow to his neck.  
 When they asked, "Are you friz?"  
 He replied, "Yes, I is —  
 But we don't call this cold in Quebec!"

- Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

English journalist, short-story writer, poet, and novelist.

Kipling is regarded as a major innovator in the art of the short story; his children's books are classics of children's literature. He was one of the most popular writers in the United Kingdom, in both prose and verse, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His works of fiction include *The Jungle Book* (1894), *Kim* (1901), and many short stories, including "The Man Who Would Be King" (1888). His poems include "Mandalay" (1890), "Gunga Din" (1890), "The Gods of the Copybook Headings" (1919), "The White Man's Burden" (1899), and "If -" (1910).

**LIMERICKS cont'd.**

p.14.

**A Math Limerick**

$$\frac{12 + 144 + 20 + 3\sqrt{4}}{7} + (5 \times 11) = 9^2 + 0$$

Doesn't look like a limerick to you? Try this:

**A dozen, a gross, and a score  
Plus three times the square root of four  
Divided by seven  
Plus five times eleven  
Is nine square and not a bit more.**

- Jon Saxton (math textbook author)  
<https://www.math.hmc.edu/funfacts/ffiles/10001.8.shtml>

$$\text{Or, } (12 + 144 + 20 + 3 \times \sqrt{4}) / 7 + 5 \times 11 = 9^2 + 0$$

Other math limericks:

<http://www.trottermath.net/humor/limricks.html>  
<http://www.highhopes.com/mathlimericks.html>

Answer: 81.



<http://www.publicdomainpictures.net/view-image.php?image=75287&picture=running-boy-cartoon-clipart>

**There once was a runner named Dwight,  
Who could speed even faster than light;  
He set out one day,  
In a relative way.  
And returned on the previous night.**

Funny Science Limericks:

<http://www.rd.com/funny-stuff/funny-limericks/>

Light travels at a constant, finite speed of 186,000 mi/sec. A traveler, moving at the speed of light, would circum-navigate the equator approximately 7.5 times in one second. By comparison, a traveler in a jet aircraft, moving at a ground speed of 500 mph, would cross the continental U.S. once in 4 hours.

Other funny and science limericks:

<http://www.freewebs.com/grahamlester/kids.htm>

<http://www.cafepress.com/keendesigns/7995731>

**LIMERICKS cont'd.**

p.16.



[1]



[2]



[3]

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**An amoeba, named Max, and his brother. [1]**

**Were sharing a drink with each other;**

**In the midst of their quaffing,**

**They split themselves laughing, [2]**

**And each of them now is a mother. [3]**

- Funny Limericks Only Clever People Will Get  
<http://www.rd.com/funny-stuff/funny-limericks/>

quaff - v. to drink something in large gulps or with great enjoyment.

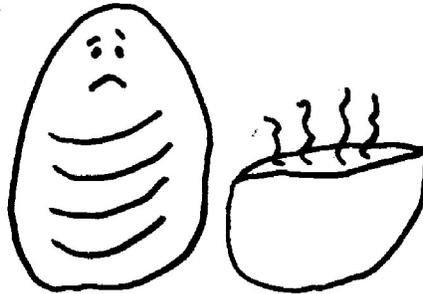
An amoeba (pronounced uh-MEE-buh) is any of several microscopic, one-celled protozoa (organism) found in water and in damp soil on land, and as a parasite to other organisms. It has no fixed shape. Most have no hard parts and look like blobs of jelly. However, some amoebas do build shells. An amoeba moves primarily by extending and retracting pseudopods in the direction it wants to travel. Then slowly, the rest of the cell follows. When it eats, an amoeba flows around other microorganisms and engulfs them. To reproduce, the amoeba splits itself into two cells, a process called binary fission (splitting in two). Note: A pseudopod is a temporary projection of the cytoplasm of certain cells or of certain unicellular organisms, especially amoebas, that serves in locomotion and phagocytosis (eating).

<http://www.kidsbiology.com/animals-for-children.php?animal=Amoeba>

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/plants-and-animals/microbes-algae-and-fungi/moneran-and-protistan/amoeba>

Other science limericks:

<http://www.cafepress.com/keendesigns/7995731>



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**An oyster from Kalamazoo,  
Confessed he was feeling quite blue;  
For he said, "As a rule,  
When the weather turns cool,  
I invariably get in a stew."**

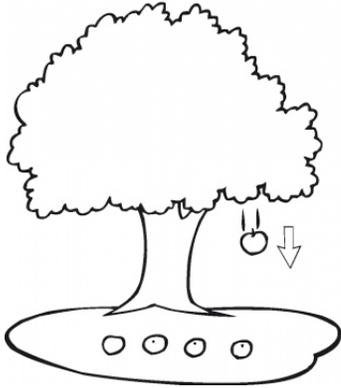
- Funny Limericks Only Clever People Will Get  
<http://www.rd.com/funny-stuff/funny-limericks/>

Other science limericks:

<http://www.cafepress.com/keendesigns/7995731>

An oyster is the common name for a salt-water bivalve mollusk that lives in marine or brackish habitats. Some kinds of oysters are eaten by humans, cooked or raw, the latter being a delicacy. Some kinds of pearl oysters are harvested for the pearl produced within the mantle. Windowpane oysters are harvested for their translucent shells, which are used to make various kinds of decorative objects.

bivalve - n. a marine or freshwater mollusk that has its body contained within two shells joined by a hinge. Oysters, mussels, and clams are bivalves.



<https://www.clipartsgram.com/download/IMvRmOA>



<http://www.clipartfinders.com/falling-down-laughing-clipart.html>

**Newton's equations reveal,  
That falling is not a big deal;  
Except for uneasy,  
And just a bit queasy,  
It's the stop at the bottom you feel.**

- The physics of falling.

Science limericks: <http://www.cafepress.com/keendesigns/7995731>

Isaac Newton (1642-1727), an English mathematician and physicist, was in an orchard when he witnessed an apple drop from a tree. There's no evidence to suggest the fruit actually landed on his head, but this observation caused him to ponder why apples always fall straight to the ground (rather than sideways or upward) and helped inspire him to develop his law of universal gravitation. In 1687, he published this principle that states, a gravitational force is a force that attracts any object with mass. Every object, including you, is pulling on every other object in the entire universe. On Earth, gravity gives weight to physical objects and causes the ocean tides.



An ancestor ancient and bold,  
 In Africa years ago strolled;  
 He was not like an ape,  
 In his size and his shape,  
 But a bi-pedal proto-hominin I'm told.

- Evolution.

Science limericks: <http://www.cafepress.com/keendesigns/7995731>

Within a deep and narrow cave in South Africa, paleoanthropologist Lee Berger and his team found fossil remains belonging to the newest member of our human family. The Homo naledi discovery adds another exciting chapter to the human evolution story by introducing an ancestor that was primitive but shared physical characteristics with modern humans.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxgnlSbYLSc>

Vocabulary:

**bi pedal** - two-legged.

**proto-hominin** - directly ancestral (related to) to humans, or very closely related to humans.

**hominin** - a primate of a taxonomic tribe (Hominini), which comprises those species regarded as human, directly ancestral to humans, or very closely related to humans.



<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/hands-holding-the-world/>



<http://www.clipartbay.com/alien-clipart>

**Our planet has life you can see,  
Intelligent life some agree;  
But surely in space,  
In some faraway place,  
There must be life smarter than we.**

**Intelligent life?**

Science limericks: <http://www.cafepress.com/keendesigns/7995731>

Adam Frank said: "Thanks to NASA's Kepler satellite and other searches, we now know that roughly one-fifth of stars have planets in habitable zones, where temperatures could support life as we know it. There is one in 10 billion trillion chance that we were alone in the universe. One in 10 billion trillions is incredibly small. To me, this implies that other intelligent, technology-producing species very likely have evolved before us."

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/science/666623/alien-exist-confirmed-nasa-kepler-universe-drake-equation>

LIMERICKS cont'd. Write and illustrate your own limerick. p.21.



There was an Old Man of Blackheath,  
Whose head was adorned with a Wreath,  
Of lobsters and spice,  
Pickled onions and mice,  
That uncommon Old Man of Blackheath.

- Edward Lear (1812-1888)

English artist, illustrator, musician, author and poet

Lear is known now mostly for his literary nonsense in poetry and prose and especially his limericks, a form he popularized. He wrote the "Book of Nonsense" in 1846. This was an entire book of silly limericks.

