How to...

Master ancient forms!

Get a “Foot” in the Door

Ride a Ptero – Dactyl?

Meter made!

POEM
The form was developed by Iris Tiedt in *A New Poetry Form: The Diamante* (1969).

### Diamante

- **Diamond Shape, 7 Lines**
- **Noun**
- **Adjective-Adjective**
- **Verb - Verb - Verb**
- **Noun - Noun / Noun - Noun**
- **Verb - Verb - Verb**

...comparing and contrasting two different subjects, or naming synonyms at the beginning of the poem and then antonyms for the second half for a subject.

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Began in 13th Century Japan as part of longer form Renga poetry. The three line stanza became its own form in the 16th century.

It has but 3 lines:
5, 7, 5 Syllables
Are the lengths of them

... focusing on images from nature, ... emphasizes simplicity, intensity, and directness of expression... focus on a brief moment in time; a use of provocative, colorful images; an ability to be read in one breath.
Modern forms commonly break from these traditions.

Five Syllables
Seven Syllables
Five Syllables

I hold a new book
In my hands for the first time,
Anticipating...

**How to...**

**Ghazal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Couplet 1, Line 1— A</th>
<th>roots in seventh-century Arabia, gained prominence in the 13th- and 14th-century thanks to such Persian poets as Rumi and Hafiz.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Couplet 1, Line 2— A</td>
<td>Commonly sung by Iranian, Indian, and Pakistani musicians. Though other languages have adapted the form and traditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couplet 2, Line 1— B</td>
<td>No set meter, Lines similar in length. Traditionally invoke melancholy, love, longing, and metaphysical questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couplet 2, Line 2— A</td>
<td>The final couplet usually includes the poet’s signature, referring to the author in the first or third person, and frequently including the poet’s own name or a derivation of its meaning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couplet 3, Line 1— C</td>
<td>5–15+ Couplets, Second line of each couplet rhymes with the opening line, No set meter, Lines similar in length.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couplet 3, Line 2— A</td>
<td>Second line of each couplet rhymes with the opening line, No set meter, Lines similar in length. Traditionally invoke melancholy, love, longing, and metaphysical questions.</td>
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<td>Couplet 4, Line 1— D</td>
<td>The final couplet usually includes the poet’s signature, referring to the author in the first or third person, and frequently including the poet’s own name or a derivation of its meaning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Couplet 4, Line 2— A</td>
<td>The final couplet usually includes the poet’s signature, referring to the author in the first or third person, and frequently including the poet’s own name or a derivation of its meaning.</td>
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<td>Couplet 5, Line 1— E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Couplet 5, Line 2— A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Etc.</td>
<td>Etc.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How to...

Cinquain (didactic)

5 Lines, 11 Words

Ordinarily, the **first line** is a one-word title / subject of the poem; the **second line** is a pair of adjectives describing that title; the **third line** is a three-word phrase that gives more information about the subject (often a list of three gerunds); the **fourth line** consists of four words describing feelings related to that subject; and the **fifth line** is a single word synonym or other reference for the subject from line one.

Subject

Adjective-Adjective

-ing, -ing, -ing

Four words about feelings

Synonym

Book

Tangible, Paper Reading, Learning, Exploring Open to New Worlds Codex

an informal cinquain widely taught in elementary schools ... featured in, and popularized by, children's media resources,
The American Cinquain was developed by Adelaide Crapsey (1878-1914), who composed 28 of them which were posthumously released.

5 Lines,
22 Syllables,
11 Stresses

Lines comprise, in order, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 1 stresses and 2, 4, 6, 8, and 2 syllables. Iambic feet were meant to be the standard, but they are not required.

A Book
Can take you to
Another world or time
But keep you in the place where you Now sit.

The first known Cento was composed of lines from the Latin poet Virgil.

From the Latin word for “patchwork,” the cento (or collage poem) is a poetic form made up of lines from poems by other poets.

A kind of “Found Poetry.”

Every day I write the book; You’re just another unfinished story. Now, since we became accelerated readers, we never leave the house.

Elvis Costello, “Every Day I Write the Book.”
The Joy Formidable, “Austere.”
Los Campesinos, “We Are All Accelerated Readers.”
How to... Iambic Pentameter

10 Syllables,
5 iambic feet,
(foot = group of syllables)

Useful for Blank Verse,
Shakespearean Sonnets,
Heroic Couplets, and many
other poetic forms.

Iamb:

short - LONG
un - STRESS
da - DUM

a BOOK / can BE / a GLO/riOUS / rePRIEVE

"Iambic Pentameter." Wikipedia,
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iambic_pentameter.
Will Shakespeare liked to use this form of verse,
But he was not the only one who did.
Of ev’ry four English Poems composed,
It’s estimated three of them are this.*


Non-Rhyming, Regular Meter, Usually Iambic Pentameter:
(10 Syllables, 5 iambic feet)

While Shakespeare used blank verse most of the time.
I quite prefer Heroic Couplets’ rhyme.
‘cause rhythmic rhyming stuff is super dope;
Just ask Jay-Z or Alexander Pope.


How to...

Sonnet
(Shakespeare Style)

14 Lines,
Iambic Pentameter,
Rhyme Scheme: →

Shakespeare composed 154 sonnets in the form that came to be named after him: 3 quatrains (4-line stanzas) followed by a final couplet.

Consider, now, the unassuming Book:
It’s codex form triumphant o’er the scroll
By ease of helping readers know to look,
Pages breaking up the greater whole.

A book can be a glorious reprieve
From mundane tasks and rote banality.
And give a reader opportun’ to leave,
Their ev’ryday, most plain, reality.

Composed and fixed, the author’s word to page,
Is knowledge taken in to solid state.
A format that’s maintained from age to age,
No other medium could ever be so great.

But now we have a thing that’s better yet,
Say those of you who love the Internet.

Consider, now, the unassuming Book:
Replacing ancient scroll forms of the past.
Impressed with print from letters metal-cast
By Gutenberg, the reading world was shook.
Stored knowledge, if you know but where to look.
How will it’s simple form persist, and last?
It’s once prime wisdom status now harrassed
By glowing screens, electric forms, we’re Hook’d.

To those of us who love the Internet,
Print books can seem such antiquated things,
To be cast off, or looked at with much doubt
But there’s something we should not soon forget
Despite convenience web and mobile brings,
A book still functions when the power is out.

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How to...

FREE VERSE

The only rule is “No Rules”*

No rhyme
No meter
NO consistent patterns
(but it can have structure)
Line breaks sometimes
Help
To make it seem
Less prose-y.

"its only freedom is from the tyrant demands of the metered line" - Allen

"being an art form, verse cannot be free in the sense of having no limitations or guiding principles" - Williams

Origins in 18th Century England with *Mother Goose* rhymes. Other poets, including Edward Lear, Kipling, and Tennyson have written them. If they must be lewd has been hotly debated. Rhythm and accents often subvert ordinary speaking conventions.  

5 lines,  
**Rhyme:** AABBA,  
**Meter important (but not strictly enforced)**  

Usually humorous or nonsensical. Sometimes lewd. **Anapestic** (short-short-LONG) rhythms give it a “bouncy” feel, but some argue the meter is **Amphibrachic** (short-LONG-short).  

A Book gives you much to discover.  
It can be like a friend or a lover. Though it might catch your eye, It’s really no lie,  
What matters is under the cover.  
