

# Word Play

## Rhyming

As you probably know rhyming is the matching and [repetition](#) of sounds. It's an especially popular form of wordplay for poetry, nursery rhymes, and children's literature because of its catchy and rhythmic style. There are all different rhyme schemes that writers use, from rhyming every word to just rhyming the first or last word of a line.

For example, Roses are red/Violets are blue/ Sugar is sweet/ And so are you! follows the scheme ABCB.

## Pun

A pun is the ultimate form of wordplay and probably the most popular and widely used. In fact, many would define it as wordplay in general! Puns uses multiple meanings and the similar sounds of words to create a humorous affect.

For example, "love at first bite" is a food pun for the idiom "love at first sight."

## **Onomatopoeia**

[Onomatopoeia](#) are words that phonetically imitate sounds.

Some common examples are *boom, achoo, pow, whoosh, bam, tick-tock, click, meow, woof, tweet*, and *ribbit*, just to name a few.

## **Double Entendre**

[Double entendre](#) is the double interpretation of a word or phrase, with the secondary meaning usually being funny or risqué. Naturally, double entendres rely on wordplay for their success, because the words used have a literal and a [figurative](#) meaning.

For example, if you said “The baker has a tree with many green leaves” it could be understood in two ways!

## Assonance and Consonance

[Assonance](#) is the matching of vowel sounds in language, while [consonance](#) is the matching of consonant sounds. These techniques can create some very catchy and interesting wordplay. Assonance creates a rhyming effect.

for example, “the fool called a duel with a mule.” Consonance has a pleasing sound, for example, “the shells she shucks are delicious.”

## Alliteration

[Alliteration](#) is a technique expressed by repeating the same first consonant sound in a series of words. You’re probably pretty familiar with this device, as it is a distinguishing feature of many nursery [rhymes](#) and tongue twisters.

For example, “Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.”