

Catullus

Poem 101, "At His Brother's Tomb"

— is a long syllable (by nature or position) (two beats)

* is a short syllable (one beat)

~ is a syllable that may be either long or short

/ is a foot division

// is a heavy pause (equal to two beats)

—* can be either two short or one long syllable

This poem is written in a meter called "Elegiac Stanzas" or "Elegiac Couplets" Here is the rhythm pattern for each 2-line stanza. Notice that the first line is dactylic hexameter, while in the second line, the third and sixth foot are each missing a half-foot. A spondee can be substituted for any of the first four feet in the first line or for either of the first two feet in the second line. The second line is called "pentameter," but it is really composed of four feet and two half-feet.

—**/ —**/ —**/ —**/ —**/ —~

—**/ —**/ —// —**/ —**/ —//

Practice the rhythm using "dum" for long and "dah" for short syllables.

"At His Brother's Tomb"

Multās per gentēs et multa per aequora vectus

adveniō hās miserās, frāter, ad inferiās,

ut tē postrēmō dōnārem mūnere mortis

et mūtā nēquiquam alloquerer cinerem,

quandō quīdem fortunā mihi tete abstulit ipsum, 5

heu miser indignē frāter adempte nihil

Nunc tamen intereā haec, priscō quae mōre parentum

trādita sunt tristī munere ad inferiās,

accipe frāternō multum mānantia fletū,

atque in perpetuum, frāter, ave atque valē! 10

Through many nations and many seas have I come
To carry out these wretched funeral rites, brother,
That at last I may give you this final gift in death
And that I might speak in vain to silent ashes.
Since fortune has borne you, yourself, away from me.
Oh, poor brother, snatched unfairly away from me,
Now, though, even these, which from antiquity and in the
custom of our
parents, have been handed down, a gift of sadness in the
rites, accept
them, flowing with many brotherly tears, And for eternity,
my brother,
hail and farewell.

Poem 2: Latin II

Horace

Ode I.5 "To Pyrrha"

— is a long syllable (by nature or position) (two beats)

___ is a very long syllable (three beats)

* is a short syllable (one beat)

/ is a foot division

// is an extra pause (one beat)

This poem is written in a meter called "Fourth Asclepiadean." Here is the rhythm pattern for each stanza:

— / — ** / — // — ** / — * / — //

— / — ** / — // — ** / — * / — //

— / — ** / — / — //

— / — ** / — * / —

Practice the rhythm using "dum" for long and "dah" for short syllables.

"To Pyrrha"

Quis multa gracilis tē puer in rosā

perfūsus liquidīs urget odōribus

grātō, Pyrrha, sub antrō?

Cui flāvam religās comam,

simplex munditiīs? Heu, quotiēns fidem 5

mūtātōsque deōs flēbit, et aspera

nigrīs aequora ventīs

ēmīrābitur insolēns,

"To Pyrrha" (continued)

quī nunc tē fruitur crēdulus aureā,
quī semper vacuam, semper amābilem 10
spērat, nēscius aurae
fallācis! Miserī, quibus

intemptāta nitēs! Mē tabulā sacer
vōtivā pariēs indicat ūvidā
suspendisse potēntī 15
Vestīmenta maris deō.

WHAT slender youth, bedew'd with liquid odors,
Courts thee on roses in some pleasant cave,
Pyrrha? For whom bind'st thou
In wreaths thy golden hair,
Plain in thy neatness? O how oft shall he
Of faith and changed gods complain, and seas
Rough with black winds, and storms
Unwonted shall admire!
Who now enjoys thee credulous, all gold,
Who, always vacant, always amiable
Hopes thee, of flattering gales
Unmindful. Hapless they
To whom thou untried seem'st fair. Me, in my vow'd
Picture, the sacred wall declares to have hung,
My dank and dropping weeds
To the stern god of sea.

This English translation of "To Pyrrha" was composed by John Milton
(1608-1674).

Vergil
Aeneid I.1-11

Latin II: Poem 3

- ___ is a long syllable (by nature or position) (two beats)
- * is a short syllable (one beat)
- ~ is a syllable that may be either long or short
- / is a foot division
- ___* can be either two short or one long syllable

This poem is written in a meter called "Dactylic Hexameter." Here is the rhythm pattern. Each line consists of six feet. The first four feet can be any combination of either dactyls (___ **) or spondees (___ ___). The fifth foot must be a dactyl, and the last foot can be either a spondee or a trochee (___*).

___** / ___** / ___** / ___** / ___** / ___~

Practice the rhythm using "dum" for long and "dah" for short syllables.

Opening lines of Vergil's *Aeneid*:

Arma virumque canō, Trōiae quī prīmus ab ōris
Itāliam, fātō profugus, Lāvīniaque vēnit
lītora, multum ille et terrīs iactātus et altō
vī superum saevae memorem Iūnōnis ob iram;
multa quoque et bellō passus, dum conderet urbem, 5
inferretque deōs Latīō, genus unde Latīnum,
Albānīque patrēs, atque altae moenia Rōmae.
Mūsa, mihi causās memorā, quō numine laesō,
quidve dolēns, rēgīna deum tot volvere cāsūs
insignem pietāte virum, tot adīre labōrēs 10
impulerit. Tantaene animīs caelestibus irae?

I sing, arms and the hero, who, from the coasts of Troy
to Italy, driven by fate, has come to the Lavinian
shores, much has he been tossed about both on land and sea
by the power of the gods above, on account of the remembered anger of cruel Juno;
many things also in war he has suffered, until he could build a city,
and bring his gods to Latium; from which has come the Latin nation,
and the Alban fathers, and the walls of lofty Rome.

Muse, recall to me the causes, what deity having been harmed,
or what the queen of the gods, grieving, will have compelled a man,
so distinguished in piety, to spin around among so many calamities,
to undergo so many hardships. Are such great resentments in heavenly minds?