

# Reciting a poem

## Introduction

In this activity, students learn to recite a poem in English. Students also learn to clap the stressed syllables in each sentence.

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to recite the poem from memory and feel the rhythm of the words.



This activity draws on materials and ideas presented by Clark von Heller in his presentation 'Composing music to enhance pronunciation.'

**Webinar time reference:** 11:10 – 14:06

**Level:** A1 + Any age

**Time:** 25 – 30 minutes

**Aim:** To expose students to the rhythmic nature of English.

## Preparation:

- Make copies of the poem and learn to recite it.

## Procedure

- Tell students they are going to listen to a poem about their name.
- Read the poem.
- Next, read the poem again and clap in time with the stressed syllables.
- Now ask the students to clap with you as you recite the poem.

- Do this 2 – 3 more times.
- Now ask the students to try to join in with you.
- Give the students a copy of the poem and ask them to underline the parts where you clap (the stressed syllables)
- Now ask them to read the poem and whisper it to themselves.
- Finally, ask everyone to stand and read and clap the poem.

**Materials:**

Names

Everybody  
Has a name  
Some are different  
Some the same  
Some are short  
Some are long  
All are right  
None are wrong  
I like my name  
It's special to me  
It's exactly who  
I want to be.

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**Additional resources****LearnEnglish Kids Poems**

- Do your students like listening to poems? Listening to poems is a great way to improve pronunciation and think about different topics. This site has links to lots of poems with interactive exercises that students can work on alone or in the classroom.

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/poems>

## Using poems to develop receptive skills

- Poems work well because it is possible to work with a whole text, and sometimes with more than one poem in the same lesson. This can be done successfully at any post-beginner level, so long as the poems are selected with care and with the needs, interests, and language level of the students in mind.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/using-poems-develop-receptive-skills>

## Using poetry

- The reasons for using poetry are similar to those for using songs, and many activities that you do with songs can be adapted to poetry. Find out more about how and why you should use poems in this article from Jo Budden.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/using-poetry>

## Complete poetry resuscitation

- Mark Augustine offers some tips and insights into how to make using poetry in the ELT classroom easy and fun.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/complete-poetry-resuscitation>