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# Webster's Rhyming Dictionary

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# Contents

How to Use This Book	<b>vi</b>
Pronunciation Symbols	<b>viii</b>
Rhyming sounds that begin with <b>A</b>	<b>1</b>
Rhyming sounds that begin with <b>E</b>	<b>60</b>
Rhyming sounds that begin with <b>I</b>	<b>105</b>
Rhyming sounds that begin with <b>O</b>	<b>144</b>
Rhyming sounds that begin with <b>U</b>	<b>193</b>
Rhyming sounds that begin with <b>Y</b>	<b>211</b>

# How to Use This Book

Welcome to this new rhyming dictionary, where you'll find over 40,000 rhyming words—enough to last you the rest of your life.

We've tried to make this book as easy as possible to use. However, it works quite differently from an ordinary dictionary, so please read these brief instructions to be sure you make the best use of it you can.

All the entries in this book are for *rhyming sounds*. All rhyming sounds begin with a vowel, so every entry begins with *A, E, I, O, U*, or *Y*.

All rhyming sounds also begin with an accented syllable. The rhyming sounds listed here all have one syllable, two syllables, or three syllables.

If a word has only one syllable, that syllable is always accented (as in *bee* and *sea*). A two-syllable word may be accented on either its first syllable (as in *beta* and *data*) or its second syllable (as in *agree* and *must-see*). A three-syllable word may be accented on its first syllable (*attitude*, *gratitude*), its middle syllable (*illusion*, *seclusion*), or its last syllable (*anymore*, *tug-of-war*).

Though the rhyming sounds in this dictionary are never more than three syllables long, the words themselves may have six or more syllables. In every entry, the words are divided into sections according to number of syllables; each section begins with a small bullet (•). So, for instance, the *y<sup>1</sup>* entry starts with a group of one-syllable words, which is followed by five more bulleted sections, the last one consisting of six-syllable words.

Some words have two accented syllables, with one of them almost always stronger than the other. Notice that when you say the word “middle,” you put no accent at all on the second syllable, but when you say “schoolkid,” you put a strong accent on its first syllable and a weaker accent on its second syllable. In this book, the rhyming sound always begins with the *last* accented syllable, whether or not that syllable is the one with the strongest accent. So *schoolkid* is shown at the *id<sup>1</sup>* entry—that is, the entry for its weakly accented syllable.

Many rhymes can be spelled in several different ways. For example, the rhyming sound that is often spelled *-eek* (as in *creek*) can also be spelled *-eak* (as in *peak*), *-ique* (*mystique*), *-ic* (*chic*), or *-ik* (*batik*). So how do you find a rhyme for a particular word? Just look up the spelling of its rhyming sound.

Let's suppose you need a rhyme for *equator*. All you need to do is notice how its rhyming sound is spelled. Since the rhyming sound always begins with the last accented syllable and always begins with a vowel, the rhyming sound of *equator* is obviously spelled *-ator*. And sure enough, the entry **ator**

shows all the rhymes for *equator*, no matter how their endings are spelled: *crater*, *freighter*, *creator*, etc.

But suppose you had instead wanted a rhyme for *later*, and had looked up the spelling for its rhyming sound, *-ater*. There you would have found two separate entries, **ater**<sup>1</sup> and **ater**<sup>2</sup>. Next to **ater**<sup>1</sup> you would have seen the pronunciation \ô-t-ər\, and next to **ater**<sup>2</sup> you would have seen the pronunciation \ât-ər\. Looking at the Pronunciation Symbols table on page viii, you would have seen that only the second pronunciation matched the pronunciation of *later*. But you might not have even needed to look up the pronunciation symbols, since you would have noticed immediately that the words listed at **ater**<sup>1</sup>—words such as *daughter* and *water*—didn't rhyme with *later*. Moving on to **ater**<sup>2</sup>, you would have seen that no words are listed there at all, but that it instead simply contains the direction “see ATOR.” Turning to **ator**, you would have found all the words that rhyme with *later*, regardless of how they were spelled.

Now suppose you need a word to rhyme with *dance*, and you've found the list you were looking for at **ance**<sup>3</sup>. But maybe none of the words there is quite what you want. This time you're in luck: there are some other possibilities. At the end of the entry, you'll see the following note: “—also -s, -'s, and -s' forms of nouns and -s forms of verbs listed at ANT<sup>5</sup>.” In other words, at **ant**<sup>5</sup> you can find some nouns and verbs that might do the trick. Turning to **ant**<sup>5</sup>, you see that it lists such nouns as *aunt* and *confidant*, which would rhyme with *dance* in their plural form (*aunts*, *confidants*), in their possessive form (*aunt's*, *confidant's*), or in their plural possessive form (*aunts'*, *confidants'*). You would also see such verbs as *enchant* and *gallivant*, which in the first-person singular (*enchants*, *gallivants*) would also rhyme with *dance*.

Not everyone pronounces all words the same way. So, for example, you will see words like *drawn*, *gone*, and *yawn* at both **on**<sup>1</sup> and **on**<sup>3</sup>. Usually only one pronunciation will seem right for you.

These few instructions should be all you need to make the best use of the dictionary. We hope you'll keep it close at hand to jog your memory, enlarge your lyrical vocabulary, and expand your poetic ambitions.

# Pronunciation Symbols

ə	<b>banana, collide, abut</b>
ə	preceding \l and \n\, as in <b>battle, mitten, and eaten</b> ; following \l, \m\, \r\, as in French <b>table, prisme, titre</b>
ər	<b>further, merger, bird</b>
a	<b>mat, gag, sap</b>
ā	<b>day, fade, aorta</b>
ä	<b>bother, cot, father</b>
aú	<b>now, loud, Faust</b>
b	<b>baby, rib</b>
ch	<b>chin, nature</b> \ˈnā-chər\
d	<b>did, adder</b>
e	<b>bet, peck, help</b>
ē	<b>fee, easy, media</b>
f	<b>fifty, phone, rough</b>
g	<b>go, big</b>
h	<b>hat, ahead</b>
i	<b>tip, banish, active</b>
ī	<b>site, buy, deny</b>
j	<b>job, gem, judge</b>
k	<b>kin, cook, ache</b>
<u>k</u>	German <b>ich, Buch</b>
l	<b>lily, pool</b>
m	<b>murmur, dim</b>
n	<b>no, own</b>
n	preceding vowel or diphthong is pronounced with the nasal passages open, as in French <i>un bon vin blanc</i> \œ <sup>n</sup> -bō <sup>n</sup> -va <sup>n</sup> -blā <sup>n</sup> \
ŋ	<b>sing</b> \ˈsɪŋ\, <b>finger</b> \ˈfɪŋ-gər\, <b>ink</b> \ˈɪŋk\
ō	<b>bone, know, beau</b>
ó	<b>saw, all, caught</b>
ói	<b>coin, destroy</b>
p	<b>pepper, lip</b>
r	<b>red, car, rarity</b>
s	<b>source, less</b>
sh	<b>shy, mission, machine, special</b>
t	<b>tie, attack, late</b>
th	<b>thin, ether</b>
<u>th</u>	<b>then, either</b>
ü	<b>rule, fool, union</b> \ˈyün-yən\, <b>few</b> \ˈfyü\
ù	<b>pull, would, book</b>
v	<b>vivid, give</b>
w	<b>we, away</b>
y	<b>yard, cue</b> \ˈkyü\, <b>mute</b> \ˈmyüt\
z	<b>zone, raise</b>
zh	<b>vision, azure</b> \ˈa-zhər\

# A

- a**<sup>1</sup> \ä\ aah, ah, baa, bah, blah, bra, fa, ha, la, ma, moi, nah, pa, rah, shah, ska, spa • aha, Allah, blah-blah, Casbah, chutzpah, Degas, faux pas, feta, gaga, goombah, grandma, grandpa, ha-ha, hoopla, hurrah, huzzah, oompah, poohbah, ta-ta, Utah, voilà • Akita, aloha, baklava, brouhaha, Chippewa, coup d'état, guarana, la-di-da, ma-and-pa, Mardi Gras, Omaha, Ottawa, panama, Panama, polenta, Shangri-la, tempura • ayatollah, je ne sais quoi, phenomena
- a**<sup>2</sup> \ā\ see AY<sup>1</sup>
- a**<sup>3</sup> \ó\ see AW<sup>1</sup>
- aa**<sup>1</sup> \a\ see AH<sup>3</sup>
- aa**<sup>2</sup> \ä\ see A<sup>1</sup>
- aag** \äg\ see OG<sup>1</sup>
- aal**<sup>1</sup> \āl\ see AIL
- aal**<sup>2</sup> \ó\ see ALL<sup>1</sup>
- aal**<sup>3</sup> \ā\ see AL<sup>1</sup>
- aam** \äm\ see OM<sup>1</sup>
- aan** \an\ see AN<sup>5</sup>
- aans**<sup>1</sup> \äns\ see ANCE<sup>2</sup>
- aans**<sup>2</sup> \änz\ see ONZE
- aard** \ärd\ see ARD<sup>1</sup>
- aari** \är-ē\ see ARI<sup>1</sup>
- aaron** \ar-ən\ see ARON<sup>2</sup>
- aarten** \ärt-ən\ see ARTEN
- aas** \äs\ see OS<sup>1</sup>
- aatz** \ätz\ see OTS
- ab**<sup>1</sup> \äb\ see OB<sup>1</sup>
- ab**<sup>2</sup> \äv\ see OLVE<sup>2</sup>
- ab**<sup>3</sup> \ab\ blab, cab, crab, dab, drab, fab, flab, gab, grab, jab, lab, Lab, nab, scab, slab, stab, tab • Ahab, backstab, confab, prefab, rehab, smack-dab • baobab, taxicab
- aba** \äb-ə\ casaba • Ali Baba
- abah** \äb-ə\ see ABA
- abard** \ab-ərd\ clapboard, scabbard  
—also -ed forms of verbs listed at **ABBER**<sup>2</sup>
- abbard** \ab-ərd\ see **ABARD**
- abbas** \ab-əs\ see **ABBESS**
- abbat** \ab-ət\ see **ABIT**
- abbed**<sup>1</sup> \ab-əd\ crabbed, rabid
- abbed**<sup>2</sup> \abd\ blabbed, stabbed  
—also -ed forms of verbs listed at **AB**<sup>3</sup>
- abber**<sup>1</sup> \äb-ər\ see **OBBER**
- abber**<sup>2</sup> \ab-ər\ blabber, crabber, gabber, grabber, jabber, stabber • backstabber, land-grabber
- abbess** \ab-əs\ abbess • Barabbas
- abbet** \ab-ət\ see **ABIT**
- abbey** \ab-ē\ see **ABBY**
- abbie**<sup>1</sup> \äb-ē\ see **OBBY**
- abbie**<sup>2</sup> \ab-ē\ see **ABBY**
- abbit** \ab-ət\ see **ABIT**
- abbutt** \ab-ət\ see **ABIT**
- abble**<sup>1</sup> \äb-əl\ bauble, cobble, gobble, hobble, Kabul, squabble, wobble
- abble**<sup>2</sup> \ab-əl\ Babel, babble, dabble, gabble, rabble, scrabble, Scrabble • hardscrabble • psychobabble, technobabble
- abblor** \ab-lər\ babbler, dabbler, scrabblor
- abblly** \ab-lē\ see **ABLY**
- abbot** \ab-ət\ see **ABIT**
- abby** \ab-ē\ abbey, Abby, blabby, cabbie, crabby, flabby, gabby, grabby, scabby, shabby, tabby
- abe**<sup>1</sup> \äb\ babe, nabe
- abe**<sup>2</sup> \ab\ see **AB**<sup>3</sup>
- abe**<sup>3</sup> \ä-bə\ see **ABA**
- abel** \ä-bəl\ see **ABLE**
- aben** \äb-ən\ see **OBIN**

**aber**<sup>1</sup> \ā-bər\ see ABOR  
**aber**<sup>2</sup> \äb-ər\ see OBBER  
**abes** \ā-bēz\ see ABYS  
**abi**<sup>1</sup> \äb-ē\ see OBBY  
**abi**<sup>2</sup> \əb-ē\ see UBBY  
**abi**<sup>3</sup> \ab-ē\ see ABBY  
**abid** \ab-əd\ see ABBED<sup>1</sup>  
**abies** \ā-bēz\ rabies, scabies • antirabies  
 —also -s, -'s, and -s' forms of nouns listed at ABY  
**abile** \ab-əl\ see ABBLE<sup>2</sup>  
**abit** \ab-ət\ abbot, habit, rabbit  
 • cohabit, inhabit, jackrabbit  
**able** \ā-bəl\ Abel, able, Babel, cable, fable, gable, label, Mabel, sable, stable, table • disable, enable, round table, timetable, turntable, unable, unstable, worktable  
**abled** \ā-bəld\ fabled, gabled  
 —also -ed forms of verbs listed at ABLE  
**ablis** \ab-lē\ see ABLY  
**ably** \ab-lē\ chablis, drably  
**abor** \ā-bər\ labor, neighbor, saber  
 • belabor  
**abot** \ab-ət\ see ABIT  
**abre** \äb\ see OB<sup>1</sup>  
**abul** \äb-əl\ see ABBLE<sup>1</sup>  
**abulous** \ab-yə-ləs\ fabulous  
 • fantabulous  
**aby** \ā-bē\ baby, maybe • crybaby  
**ac**<sup>1</sup> \ak\ see ACK<sup>2</sup>  
**ac**<sup>2</sup> \äk\ see OCK<sup>1</sup>  
**ac**<sup>3</sup> \ó\ see AW<sup>1</sup>  
**aca**<sup>1</sup> \äk-ə\ see AKA<sup>1</sup>  
**aca**<sup>2</sup> \ak-ə\ alpaca • Strait of Malacca  
**acable** \ak-ə-bəl\ see ACKABLE  
**acao** \ō-kō\ see OCO  
**acas** \ak-əs\ fracas • Caracas  
**acca**<sup>1</sup> \ak-ə\ see ACA<sup>2</sup>  
**acca**<sup>2</sup> \äk-ə\ see AKA<sup>1</sup>  
**accent** \ak-sənt\ accent • relaxant  
**acchus** \ak-əs\ see ACAS  
**accid** \as-əd\ see ACID

**acco**<sup>1</sup> \ak-ə\ see ACA<sup>1</sup>  
**acco**<sup>2</sup> \ak-ō\ see AKO<sup>2</sup>  
**ace**<sup>1</sup> \ās\ ace, base, bass, brace, case, chase, face, grace, Grace, lace, mace, Mace, pace, place, race, space, Thrace, trace, vase  
 • abase, airspace, backspace, birthplace, boldface, bookcase, bootlace, briefcase, crankcase, debase, deface, disgrace, displace, dogface, efface, embrace, encase, erase, fireplace, footrace, lactase, misplace, nutcase, outpace, outrace, paleface, replace, retrace, shoelace, showcase, showplace, slipcase, someplace, staircase, suitcase, typeface, unlace, wheelbase, workplace, worst-case  
 • about-face, aerospace, anyplace, commonplace, cyberspace, database, double-space, everyplace, hyperspace, interface, interlace, interspace, lowercase, marketplace, pillowcase, single-space, steeplechase, triple-space, uppercase  
**ace**<sup>2</sup> \ā-sē\ see ACY  
**ace**<sup>3</sup> \äs\ see OS<sup>1</sup>  
**ace**<sup>4</sup> \as\ see ASS<sup>3</sup>  
**ace**<sup>5</sup> \äch-ē\ see OTCHY  
**ace**<sup>6</sup> \äs-ə\ see ASA<sup>1</sup>  
**aceable** \ā-sə-bəl\ placeable, traceable • embraceable, erasable, replaceable, untraceable • irreplaceable  
**acean** \ā-shən\ see ATION<sup>1</sup>  
**aced** \äst\ based, baste, chaste, faced, haste, laced, paste, taste, waist, waste • bald-faced, barefaced, bold-faced, distaste, foretaste, lambaste, moonfaced, rad waste, shamefaced, snail-paced, slipcased, stone-faced, straight-faced, straitlaced, toothpaste, two-faced • aftertaste, poker-faced • scissors-and-paste  
 —also -ed forms of verbs listed at ACE<sup>1</sup>