

## Learning English Through Verse - *A poem a day keeps the mind at play*

*Assignment: Find words or expressions in the poem that correspond to the categories below. Indicate the syllable to be stressed when there are more than one.*

**Main verbs:**

**To be (present):** Who am I, the sky is blue, the lakes (are) pure and clear, for this is a country where the **people** are free, the smiles on their **faces** is a joy to see, where my long **story** ends, you're young

**To be (past):** When I was a child, we were **always** worried and always **afraid**

**To have:** What you have you must share

**To have to:** We had to build **courage** and **decide** we should flee

**To want:** I want you to be **quiet**, and **nothing demand**, I just want you to speak **correctly**

**To expect/like:** I expect you to **listen**, I'd like you to **focus**

**Other verbs:** ask, sit, wait, **explain**, tell a tale (story), **recall**, choose, learn, lose, echo, give, eat come, smell, see, hail, plan, find, share, spare, miss, **demand**, **understand**, greet, show, mock (=make fun of), quench (=to satisfy), play the piano, please, show

**Simple present:** you sit there and wait, I choose, I come from a **country** where the flowers smell sweet, where **farmers** give **people** fine crops they can eat, where the sky is blue, the lakes (are) pure and clear, the **neighbors** they hail you, for this is a **country** where the **people** are free, your time and your **money** plus all you can spare, the smiles on their faces is a joy to see, but that is not where my own story ends, I daresay, I trust, if ever you're stuck, I know, the skills, you learn

**Simple present (negative):** it isn't so easy, you aren't alone, I don't ask you to know

**Present continuous:** everyone's **trying** to come, I'm **talking** to you, I'm **telling** you this

**Present Perfect:** I've been through **hardships**, I have had pain, I have felt **anguish**

**Present Perfect (negative):** I haven't felt **sorrow**

**Simple past:** when I was a child, we were poor, with no home, we lived in a clan, what we liked, they **forbade**, We had to build **courage**, we **traveled**, we reached, my **parents** there **settled**, worked hard all their life, they found me a wife, they **wanted** for me, I **studied** at high school, made some good friends, my own **story** ends, I learned a **profession**, then found work I could do, (I) **became** a **carpenter's** aid, so I earned my **living**, we had food, my wife she was pleased, kids got **along**, I saw how they grew, **became** tall and so strong, they **studied** **Chinese**, they played the piano, their **parents** did please, they went **onto** **college**, got **prestigious** **degrees**

**Future:** you'll forever recall, people will greet you, acts of **friendship** they'll show, **those** that will make you, the man you'll **become**

**Future (negative):** you **never** will lose, no one will mock you, we won't give you a test, you will never **regret**, you'll never forget

**Simple present and present continuous in questions:**

Who am I? How are you today? Are you happy, **contented**? Are you **planning** to stay? So isn't this poem worth **trying** to learn?

**Present perfect in questions:** Have I **suffered** a lot? Have I shed real tears?

**Future in questions:** Won't you make an attempt?

**Passive voice:** I was sent to school, you'll be **welcomed** by **people**

**Imperative:** **just** do your best

**Modals (Defective verbs-can, could, must, may):**

can, must, we couldn't do, could make ends meet, their thirst for knowledge they never could quench, may you find good **fortune**

**Conditional:** we'd feel

**Pluperfect:** they hadn't achieved, they hadn't received

**Make & Do:** made some good friends, just do your best, the effort you make

**Would (to express a habit in the past):** I would saw, polish and glue, our neighbors we'd greet (we would greet)

**Gerunds** respecting word order, stress and all rhymes, **reciting** **complex lexis** is not our **concern**

**Postpositions:** find out, the kids got along

**"If" clauses:** If you learn by heart just half of these lines,

**Expressions:** make ends meet, every day, without fail, once again, in sight, far into the night, learn by heart, half of these lines, wherever you go, so isn't this poem worth **trying** to learn, I daresay, as much as, find good **fortune**

**Adjectives:** every, blue, pure, clear, **happy**, **contented**, **easy**, **alone**, poor, free, **worried**, **afraid**, high, good, **single**, **quiet**, **complex**, right

**Adverbs:** forever, once **again**, smell sweet, worked hard, **always**, **patiently**, well, I **suffered** a lot