

Blank Verse

Blank verse is **poetry** written with regular **metrical** but **unrhymed** lines, almost always in **iambic pentameter**.^[1] It has been described as "probably the most common and influential form that **English poetry** has taken since the 16th century",^[2] and **Paul Fussell** has estimated that "about three quarters of all English poetry is in blank verse".^[3]

The first known use of blank verse in the English language was by **Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey** in his translation of the *Aeneid* (composed c. 1540; published posthumously, 1554–1557^[4]). He may have been inspired by the **Latin** original as classical Latin verse did not use rhyme; or possibly he was inspired by Ancient Greek verse or the **Italian** verse form of *versi sciolti*, both of which also did not use rhyme.

The play *Arden of Faversham* (around 1590 by an unknown author) is a notable example of **end-stopped** blank verse.

Blank **verse** is a literary device defined as un-rhyming verse written in iambic **pentameter**. In poetry and **prose**, it has a consistent **meter** with 10 syllables in each line (pentameter); where, unstressed syllables are followed by stressed ones, five of which are stressed but do not **rhyme**. It is also known as “un-rhymed **iambic pentameter**.”

Features of Blank Verse

- Blank verse poetry has no fixed number of lines.
- It has a conventional meter that is used for verse **drama** and long **narrative** poems.
- It is often used in descriptive and reflective poems and dramatic monologues — the poems in which a single **character** delivers his thoughts in the form of a speech.
- Blank verse can be composed in any kind of meter, such as **iamb**, trochee, **spondee**, and **dactyl**.

Types of Blank Verse Poetry

- **Iamb** pentameter blank verse (unstressed/stressed syllables)
- Trochee blank verse (stressed/unstressed syllables)
- **Anapest** blank verse (unstressed/unstressed/stressed syllables)
- **Dactyl** blank verse (stressed/unstressed/unstressed syllables)

Short Examples of Blank Verse

1. The dreams are clues that tell us take chances.
2. The source of faith in happiness and
3. Daylight changes, and it is time to take
4. The night frost drips silently from the roof
5. Human cadences always searching for this

History of English blank verse

The 1561 play *Gorboduc* by Thomas Norton and Thomas Sackville was the first English play to use blank verse.

Christopher Marlowe was the first English author to achieve critical notoriety for his use of blank verse^[citation needed]. The major achievements in English blank verse were made by William Shakespeare, who wrote much of the content of his plays in unrhymed iambic pentameter, and John Milton, whose *Paradise Lost* is written in blank verse. Miltonic blank verse was widely imitated in the 18th century by such poets as James Thomson (in *The Seasons*) and William Cowper (in *The Task*). Romantic English poets such as William Wordsworth, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and John Keats used blank verse as a major form. Shortly afterwards, Alfred, Lord Tennyson became particularly devoted to blank verse, using it for example in his long narrative poem "The Princess", as well as for one of his most famous poems: "Ulysses". Among American poets, Hart Crane and Wallace Stevens are notable for using blank verse in extended compositions at a time when many other poets were turning to free verse.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blank_verse

<https://literarydevices.net/blank-verse/>