

Haiku

A haiku is a form of poetry that comes from Japan. It is a short poem with a specific number of syllables in each line.

Syllables are the separate sounds you make when you say a word. Different words are made up of different numbers of syllables. For example:



Cake has **one** syllable. You say it all in one go: CAKE



Lemon has **two** syllables: LE-MON



Tomato has **three** syllables: TO-MA-TO

Haiku always have three lines and contain 17 syllables in total. They don't rhyme.

The first line has **five** syllables.

→ The apples ripened,

Autumn scent filling the air.

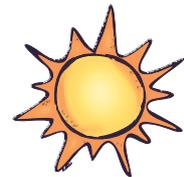
← The second line has **seven** syllables.

The final line has **five** syllables, just like the first.

→ Soon to be a pie.

1. How many syllables are there in each of these sentences?

The summer sun blazed brightly. syllables



He left quite quickly. syllables

It was too dark to see anything. syllables

Tom and Ben walked to school. syllables



The rabbit ate sixteen carrots. syllables

I went to the shop to buy a newspaper. syllables



Haiku

2. Circle all the sentences that contain seven syllables.

At break I played with my friends.

The dog ignored the toy.

I wanted to go to the park.

Whenever I'm bored, I read.

I've never seen anything like that.

Each cake was a masterpiece.

3. Which of these poems is a haiku? Circle your answer.

The frog sat there peacefully,
Croaking on the lily pad.
The fish swam below.

Whispering gently,
I tell my dog he's the best.
I think he agrees.

High in the sky
The clouds float gently.
I wish I were a cloud.

I hear them call my name.
Eager, I step towards them.
Looks like for this game
I'm on the blue team.

4. Have a go at writing two haiku of your own.
Remember the pattern of syllables: 5, 7, 5.

5 syllables

7 syllables

5 syllables

5 syllables

7 syllables

5 syllables



Haiku

Answers

A haiku is a form of poetry that comes from Japan.
It is a short poem with a specific number of syllables in each line.

Syllables are the separate sounds you make when you say a word.
Different words are made up of different numbers of syllables. For example:



Cake has **one** syllable. You say it all in one go: CAKE



Lemon has **two** syllables: LE-MON



Tomato has **three** syllables: TO-MA-TO

Haiku always have three lines and contain 17 syllables in total. They don't rhyme.

The first line has
five syllables.

→ The apples ripened,

Autumn scent filling the air.

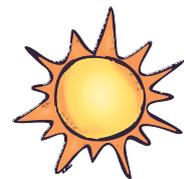
← The second line has
seven syllables.

The final line has
five syllables,
just like the first.

→ Soon to be a pie.

1. How many syllables are there in each of these sentences?

The summer sun blazed brightly.**7**..... syllables



He left quite quickly.**5**..... syllables

It was too dark to see anything.**9**..... syllables

Tom and Ben walked to school.**6**..... syllables



The rabbit ate sixteen carrots.**8**..... syllables

I went to the shop to buy a newspaper.**11**..... syllables



Haiku

Answers

2. Circle all the sentences that contain seven syllables.

At break I played with my friends.

The dog ignored the toy.

I wanted to go to the park.

Whenever I'm bored, I read.

I've never seen anything like that.

Each cake was a masterpiece.

3. Which of these poems is a haiku? Circle your answer.

The frog sat there peacefully,
Croaking on the lily pad.
The fish swam below.

Whispering gently,
I tell my dog he's the best.
I think he agrees.

High in the sky
The clouds float gently.
I wish I were a cloud.

I hear them call my name.
Eager, I step towards them.
Looks like for this game
I'm on the blue team.

4. Have a go at writing two haiku of your own.
Remember the pattern of syllables: 5, 7, 5.

5 syllables **Many possible answers**

7 syllables

5 syllables

5 syllables **Many possible answers**

7 syllables

5 syllables

