

# What are Nursery Rhymes?

In English-speaking countries, there are a multitude of short rhymes that children learn on their mother's knee. They are part of the cultural heritage of the English-speaking people, and many refer to long-forgotten historical events.

One of the shortest and best-known is the following:

*When Adam delved and Eve span*

*Who was then the gentleman?*

This circulated in England during the fourteenth century. Adam and Eve were, according to the Bible, the first two humans to exist. To delve means to dig the ground and to spin means to make thread, the primary occupations of the lower-class people at the time. The meaning is that if there were no gentlemen (upper class people) then, there was not justification for there being any later. It was a political slogan.

Most children have heard many of them, and can recite some by heart. They are easy to say and have passed the test of time. They are fun.

This book is designed to help young children learn the sounds of the English language, from the outset.

An adult can read to a child from the book, or play the recordings of the nursery rhymes, showing how the phonetic text corresponds to speech.

The goals are:

1. to familiarize the child with sounds of English, showing the phonetic text as the rhyme unfolds
2. to learn the nursery rhymes by heart.

The conventional spelling of the rhyme can be displayed by pressing the ABC button.

All the rhymes are narrated in British pronunciation: 

# About phonetic text

This book features phonetic text because phonetic text corresponds to speech.

S4 phonetics are used as they are simple and accurate.

The author would like to thank the following people for their assistance in making this book:

**Jack Windsor Lewis**

the phonetics professor who tutored me back in 2003,

**Caroline Bruce Blake**

who made the audio files,

**Alice Bessoni**

who made the artwork.

## Important

There is only one way to make sure that you can pronounce the sounds of English correctly, check with a qualified teacher.

On-line courses are available [here](#) for checking and learning for teachers and students.



rei'n rei'n gou əwei  
ka'm əgei'n ənaðə dei  
rei'n rei'n gou əwei  
lit'l tʃi'ldr'n wo'nt tə plei



**la'nd'n bridʒ iz fooliŋ dau'n  
fooliŋ dau'n fooliŋ dau'n  
la'nd'n bridʒ iz fooliŋ dau'n  
mai fee·ə leidi**



**meerii meerii** kwait k'ntreerii  
**hau** daz yoo **gaad'n grou**  
wið si'lvə **be'lz 'n kok'l je'lz**  
**'n pritii meidz** oo'l i'n ə rou



**ou'ld maðə guus**

**we'n fii wo'ntid tə wo'ndə**

**wud raid pruu ðii ee·ə**

**on-ə verii fai'n gæ'ndə**



ðee·ə woz 'n ou'ld **krou**  
sæt əpon ə **klod**  
ðæts ðii e'nd ov mai **son**  
ðæts **od**



**dʒʊʊdʒiː pʊʊdʒiː pʊdɪŋ 'n paɪ  
kɪst ðə ɡæə'lz 'n meɪd ð'm kraɪ  
we'n ðə boɪz keɪ'm aʊt tə pleɪ  
dʒʊʊdʒiː pʊʊdʒiː ræən-əweɪ**





rab ə dab **dab**

rab ə dab **dab**

**prii** me'n i'n ə **tab**

æ'nd **huu** duu yuu piŋk ðei **bii**

ðə **butʃə** ðə **beikə**

ðə **kæ'n·d'l·stik** **meikə**

təə'n 'm **aut** neivz **oo'l** **prii**



dʒæk **sbræt** kud iit nou **fæt**  
hiz **waif** kud iit nou **lii'n**  
æ'nd **sou** bitwii'n ðə **tuu** əv ð'm  
ðei **likt** ðə **plætə** **klii'n**



ə dɪlə ə dɒlə

ə te'n əklɒk skɒlə

wɒt meɪks juu kə'm sou suu'n

juu juust tə kə'm ət te'n əklɒk

æ'nd nau juu kə'm ət nuu'n



**baabə baabə ʃeiv ə pig**

**hau me'nii heez tuu meik ə wig**

**foor 'n twe'ntii ðæts inaf**

**giv ðə baabər ə pi'ntʃ əv snaf**



e'lsii **maalii** iz grou'n **sou** fai'n

fii wou'nt get **ap** tuu **fiid** ðə  
**swai'n**

bat **laiz** i'n bed ti'l **eit** oo **nai'n**

**leizii** e'lsii **maalii**



**wa'n tuu      bak'l mai juu**  
**prii foo      nok ət ðə doo**  
**faiv siks      pik ap stiks**  
**sev'n eit      lei ð'm streit**  
**nai'n te'n      mai fæt he'n**



**piitə piitə pa'mpki'n iitə**  
**hæd ə waif æ'nd kud'nt kiip ə**  
**hii put həər i'n ə pa'mpki'n fe'l**  
**æ'nd ðee hii kept həə verii we'l**



lit' l mis **m**afit

sæt o' n ə **t**afit

iitiŋ hæə **k**æədz ' n **w**ei

ðee **k**eim ə big **s**baidə

æ'nd **s**æt dau' n **b**isaid hə

æ'nd **f**rait'nd mis **m**afit əwei





did'l did'l **da'mpliŋ**

mai sa'n **dʒo'n**

we'nt tuu **bed** wið hiz **trauzəz** o'n

wa'n fuu **of** æ'nd wa'n fuu **o'n**

did'l did'l **da'mpliŋ**

mai sa'n **dʒo'n**



**hei did'l did'l**

**ðə kæt 'nd ðə fid'l**

**ðə kau dʒa'mpt ouvə ðə muu'n**

**ðə lit'l dog laaft tə sii satʃ sboot**

**æ'nd ðə dij ræ'n əwei wið ðə sbuu'n**



to'm to'm ðə paipəz sa'n  
stou'l ə pig  
æ'nd əwei did ra'n  
ðə pig woz iit  
æ'nd to'm woz biit  
æ'nd to'm we'nt krai·iŋ  
dau'n ðə striit



**wii wi'lii wiŋkii**  
**ra'nz pruu ðə tau'n**  
**apstee·əz 'n dau'nstee·əz**  
**i'n hiz nait gau'n**  
**ræpiŋ æt ðə wi'ndou**  
**kraii·iŋ pruu ðə lok**  
**aa ðə tʃi'ldr'n oo'l i'n bed**  
**foo nau its eit əklok**



ai duu not **liak** òii  
doktə fe'l  
òə riiz'n wai  
ai **kænot** te'l  
bat òis ai nou  
æ'nd nou **fu'l** we'l  
ai duu not **laik** òii  
doktə fe'l



tuu **maakit** tuu **maakit**  
tuu bai ə fæt **pig**  
**hou'm** əge'n **hou'm** əge'n  
**dzi·gə·tii** **dzig**  
tuu **maakit** tuu **maakit**  
tuu bai ə fæt **hog**  
**hou'm** əge'n **hou'm** əge'n  
**dzi·gə·tii** **dzog**



lit' l meid pritii meid  
wiðə gou·est ðau  
dau'n i'n ðə medou  
tə mi'lk mai kau  
ʃæ' l ai gou wið òii  
nou not nau  
we'n ai se'nd foo òii  
ðe'n ka'm ðau



**blou** wi'nd **blou** æ'nd  
**gou** mi'l **gou**  
ðæt ðə **mi'lə**  
mei **grai'nd** hiz **koo'n**  
ðæt ðə **beikə**  
mei **teik** it  
æ'nd i'ntuu **bred** meik it  
æ'nd **brin** as ə **louf**  
i'n ðə **moo'n**





ðə kæt lei əsliip  
bai ðə said əv ðə fai·ə  
ðə mistris snood  
laud əz ə pig  
dʒæk tuk ap hiz fid'l  
bai dʒe'niiz dizai·ə  
æ'nd strak ap  
ə bit əv ə dʒig



baa baa **blæk** ʃiip  
hæv yuu enii wu'l  
yes səə yes səə  
prii bægz fu'l  
wa'n foo mai maastə  
wa'n foo mai dei'm  
æ'nd wa'n foo ðə lit'l **boi**  
huu **livz** dau'n ðə lei'n



hektə prətəktə  
wz drest oo'l i'n grii'n  
hektə prətəktə  
wz se'nt tə ðə kwii'n  
ðə kwii'n did not laik hi'm  
nou moo did ðə kiŋ  
sou hektə prətəktə  
wz se'nt bæk əge'n

## The words in conventional spelling...

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### Page 3

Rain, rain, go away  
Come again another day.  
Rain, rain go away,  
Little children want to play.

### Page 4

London Bridge is falling down,  
Falling down, falling down.  
London Bridge is falling down,  
My fair lady.

### Page 5

Mary Mary, quite contrary.  
How does your garden grow?  
With silver bells and cockle shells,  
And pretty maids all in a row.

### Page 6

Old Mother Goose,  
When she wanted to wander,  
Would ride through the air  
On a very fine gander.

### Page 7

There was an old crow  
Sat upon a clod;  
That's the end of my song.  
That's odd.

### Page 8

Georgie Porgie pudding and pie,  
Kissed the girls and made them cry.  
When the boys came out to play,  
Georgie Porgie ran away.

### Page 9

Rub-a-dub-dub, Rub-a-dub-dub,  
Three men in a tab;  
And who do you think they be?  
The butcher, the baker,  
The candlestick-maker;  
Turn 'em out, knaves all three!

### Page 10

Jack Sprat could eat no fat,  
His wife could eat no lean,  
And so between the two of them,  
They licked the platter clean.

### Page 11

A dillar, a dollar,  
A ten-o'clock scholar,  
What makes you come so soon?  
You used to come at ten o'clock,  
And now you come at noon.

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**Page 12**

Barber, barber, shave a pig,  
How many hairs to make a wig?  
Four and twenty, that's enough.  
Give the barber a pinch of snuff.

**Page 13**

Elsie Marley is grown so fine,  
She won't get up to feed the swine,  
But lies in bed till eight or nine,  
Lazy Elsie Marley.

**Page 14**

One two, buckle my shoe.  
Three, four, knock at the door.  
Five six, pick up sticks.  
Seven, eight, don't be late.  
Nine, ten, my fat hen.

**Page 15**

Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater,  
Had a wife and couldn't keep her;  
He put her in a pumpkin shell  
And there he kept her very well.

**Page 16**

Little Miss Muffet  
Sat on a tuffet,  
Eating her curds and whey;  
There came a big spider,  
And sat down beside her,  
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

**Page 17**

Diddle, diddle, dumpling, my son John,  
Went to bed with his trousers on;  
One shoe off, and one shoe on;  
Diddle, diddle, dumpling, my son John.

**Page 18**

Hey diddle, diddle,  
The cat and the fiddle,  
The cow jumped over the moon;  
The little dog laughed  
To see such sport,  
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

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**Page 19**

Tom, Tom, the piper's son.  
Stole a pig and away did run.  
The pig was eat, and Tom was beat,  
And Tom went crying down the street.

**Page 20**

Wee Willie Winkie runs through the town,  
Upstairs and downstairs, in his nightgown;  
Rapping at the window, crying through the lock,  
Are the children all in bed, for now it's eight o'clock?

**Page 21**

I do not like thee, Doctor Fell,  
The reason why I cannot tell;  
But this I know, and know full well,  
I do not like thee, Doctor Fell.

**Page 22**

To market, to market, to buy a fat pig,  
Home again, home again, jiggety-jig;  
To market, to market, to buy a fat hog,  
Home again, home again, jiggety-jog.

**Page 23**

Little maid, pretty maid, whither goest thou?  
Down in the meadow to milk my cow.  
Shall I go with thee? No, not now;  
When I send for thee, then come thou.

**Page 24**

Blow, wind, blow! and go, mill, go!  
That the miller may grind his corn;  
That the baker may take it,  
And into bread make it,  
And bring us a loaf in the morn.

**Page 25**

The cat lay asleep by the side of the fire,  
The mistress snored loud as a pig  
Jack took up his fiddle, by Jenny's desire  
And struck up a bit of a jig.

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**Page 26**

Baa, baa, black sheep,  
Have you any wool?  
Yes, sir, yes, sir,  
Three bags full;  
One for my master,  
One for my dame,  
And one for the little boy  
Who lives down the lane.

**Page 27**

Hector Protector was dressed all in green;  
Hector Protector was sent to the queen.  
The queen did not like him,  
No more did the king;  
So Hector Protector was sent back again.

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Simon Vickers asserts the right  
to be recognised as the author of this book  
and as the originator of the novel ideas presented in it.