
Volume 1

Classic Nursery Rhymes



for
learning
pronunciation

Featuring S4 Phonetics

S4 Publications





About this
book...

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.

More can be found about S4 phonetics [here](#)

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for their assistance in making this book:

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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.

Also, full background information about the
use of phonetic text to teach and learn
proper pronunciation can be found [here](#).



25 Nursery Rhymes...



ABC

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



ABC

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



ABC

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



ABC

ou'ld maðə guus
we'n ʃii wo'ntid tə wo'ndə
wud raid pruu ðii ee·ə
on-ə verii fai'n gæ'ndə



ABC

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



ABC

**dʒʊʊdʒii pʊʊdʒii pʊdiŋ 'n pai
kist ɔ̃ə gəə'lz 'n meid ɔ̃m krai
we'n ɔ̃ə boiz kei'm aut tə plei
dʒʊʊdʒii pʊʊdʒii ræn-əwei**



ABC

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**



ABC

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**



ABC

ə dɪlə ə dɒlə

ə te'n əklok skɒlə

wɒt meɪks juu ka'm sou suu'n

juu yuust tə ka'm ət te'n əklok

æ'nd nau juu ka'm ət nuu'n



ABC

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



ABC

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**



ABC

wa'n tuu	bak'l mai fuu
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



ABC

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



ABC

lit'l mis **mafit**

sæt o'n ə **tafit**

iitiŋ həə **kæədʒ** 'n **wei**

ðee **keim** ə big **sbaidə**

æ'nd **sæt** dau'n **bisaɪd** hə

æ'nd **frait**'nd mis **mafit** əwei



ABC

did'l did'l **da'mplin**

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'mplin**

mai sa'n **dʒo'n**



ABC

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 sbʊt

æ'nd ðə diʃ ræ'n əwei wið ðə
sbuu'n



ABC

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



ABC

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
krai·iŋ pruu ðə lok
aa ðə tʃi'ldr'n oo'l i'n bed
foo nau its eit əklok



ABC

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



ABC

tuu **maakit** tuu **maakit**
tuu bai ə fæt **pig**
hou'm əge'n **hou'm** əge'n
dʒi·gə·tii dʒig
tuu **maakit** tuu **maakit**
tuu bai ə fæt **hog**
hou'm əge'n **hou'm** əge'n
dʒi·gə·tii dʒog



ABC

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 ðii
nou not nau
we' n ai se' nd foo ðii
ðe' n ka' m ðau



ABC

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**



ABC

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



ABC

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**



ABC

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

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