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Volume 2

# Classic Nursery Rhymes



for  
learning  
pronunciation

Featuring S4 Phonetics

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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. Nursery rhymes 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](#)

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.

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



# 19 Nursery Rhymes. . .



ABC

**hikətii pikətii mai fai'n he'n  
sii leiz egz foo dʒe'nt'lme'n  
dʒe'nt'lme'n ka'm evrii dei  
tuu sii wot mai fai'n he'n  
dab lei  
sa'mtai'mz nai'n  
'n sa'mtai'mz te'n  
hikətii pikətii mai fai'n he'n**



ABC

**pusii kæt pusii kæt  
wee hæv yuu bii'n  
aiv bii'n tə la'nd'n  
tə luk ət ðə kwii'n  
pusii kæt pusii kæt  
wot did yuu ðee·ə  
ai ftrait'nd ə lid'l maus  
a'ndə həə tʃee·ə**



ABC

ðis lit'l pigii we'n tuu **maakit**  
ðis lit'l pigii steid **hou'm**  
ðis lit'l pigii hæd **roust biif**  
ðis lit'l pigii hæd **na'n**  
æ'nd ðis lit'l pig **kraid**  
**wii wii wii wii**  
**oo'l ðə wei hou'm**

## There was an old woman



ABC

ðee woz 'n ou'ld wum'n  
huu livd i'n e suu

sii hæd sou me'nii  
tʃ'ldʒr'n sii did 'nt nou wot  
tə duu

sii geiv ð'm sa'm broþ  
wiðaut e'nii bred

sgou'ldid ð'm sau'ndlili  
'nd se'nt ð'm tə bed



ABC

bobii **saaftou** z go'n tuu **sii**  
si'lve **bak'ls** æt iz **nii**  
hii'l ka'm **bæk** æ'nd mærii **mii**  
**bo'nii** bobii **saaftou**  
bobii **saaftou** z **fæt** 'n **fee**  
koumiŋ **dau'n** hiz yelou **hee**  
**hiiz** mai **lav** foor **evəmoo**  
**bo'nii** bobii **saaftou**



ABC

əz ai woz gou·inj tuu s'nt aivz  
ai met e mæ'n wið sev'n waivz  
evrii waif hæd sev'n sæks  
evrii sæk hæd sev'n kæts  
evrii kæt hæd sev'n kits  
kits kæts sæks 'n waivz  
hau me'nii wəə gou·inj  
tuu s'nt aivz



ABC

**staa lait staa brait  
føəst staa ai sii tənait  
ai wiʃ ai mei  
ai wiʃ ai mait  
hæv ðə wiʃ ai wiʃ tənait**



ABC

**po'lii put ðə ket'l o'n  
po'lii put ðə ket'l o'n  
po'lii put ðə ket'l o'n  
wii'l oo'l hæv tii  
suukii teik it of əge'n  
suukii teik it of əge'n  
suukii teik it of əge'n  
ðei v oo'l go'n əwei**



ABC

wa'n mistii moistii moo'nin  
we'n klaudii woz ðə weðə  
ai tʃaa'ns tuu miit 'n ou'ld  
mæ'n  
**klouðd oo'l i'n leðə**  
**klouðd oo'l i'n leðə**  
wið **kæp** a'ndə hiz **tʃi'n**  
**hau duu yuu duu**  
**æ'nd hau duu yuu duu**  
**æ'nd hau duu yuu duu**  
**əge'n**



ABC

ðee wəə **wa'ns** tuu kæts əv  
ki'lke'nii  
iitʃ þoot ðee woz **wa'n** kæt  
tuu **me'nii**  
sou ðei **foot**  
æ'nd ðei **fit**  
æ'nd ðei **sgrætʃt**  
æ'nd ðei **bit**  
ti'l ekseptiŋ ðee **nei'lz**  
æ'nd ðə **tips** əv ðee **tei'lz**  
**i'NSTED** əv tuu **kæts**  
ðee wəə'nt **e'nii**



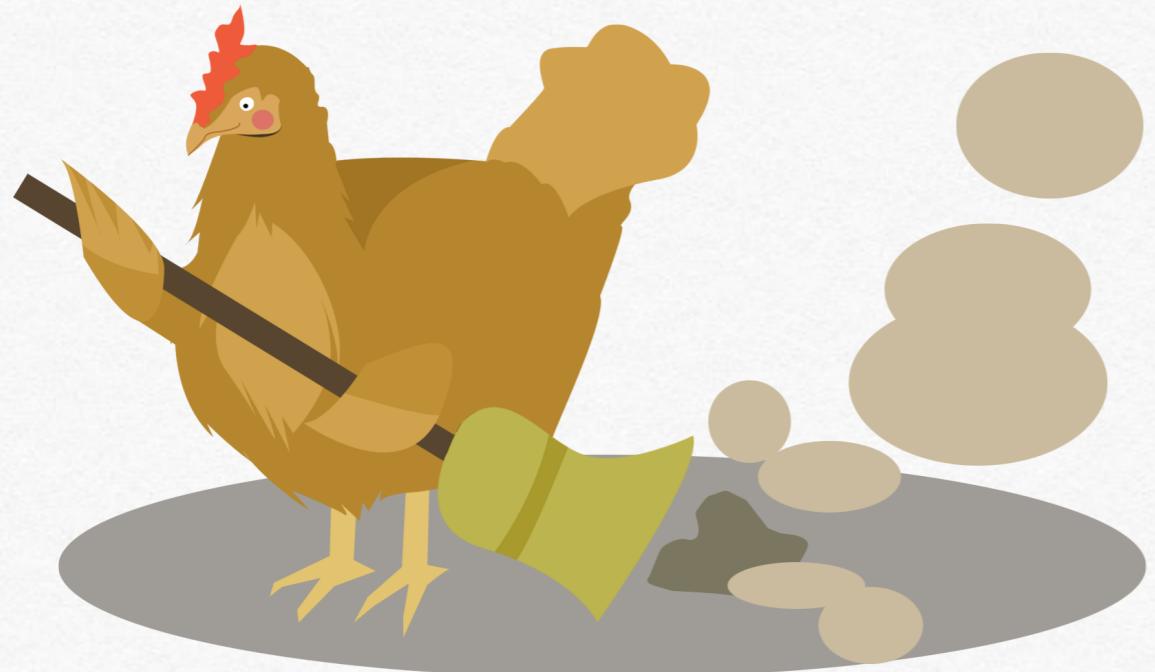
ABC

**si'mp'l saim'n met ə paim'n  
 gou·in̩ tuu ðə fee·ə  
 sez si'mp'l saim'n tuu ðə  
 paim'n  
 le mii teist yoo wee·ə  
 sez ðə paim'n tuu si'mp'l  
 saim'n  
 sou mii fəəst yoo pe'nii  
 sez si'mp'l saim'n tuu ðə  
 paim'n  
 səə ai hæv not e'nii**



ABC

**ðee woz e dʒo'lii mi'lə  
wa'ns**  
 livd o'n ðə rivə **dii**  
 hii **wəəkt** 'n **sæŋ** fr'm moo'n  
 ti'l nait  
 nou **laak** moo **blaið** ð'n hii  
 æ'nd **ðis** ðə **bəəd'n** ov hiz  
**son**  
 foor **evə** yuus tə **bii**  
 ai **kee** fə **noubədii**  
**nou** not **ai**  
 if **noubədii** **keez** fə **mii**



ABC

ai hæd ə lit'l **he'n**  
ðə pritii·est evə **sii'n**  
**sii woʃd** ap ðə **diʃiz**  
æ'nd kept ðə haus **klii'n**  
**sii we'nt** tuu ðə mi'l  
tuu **fetʃ** mii s'm **flau·ə**  
æ'nd **oo'lweiz** got **hou'm**  
i'n **les** ð'n 'n **au·ə**  
**sii beikt** mii mai **bred**  
**sii bruud** mii mai **ei'l**  
**sii sæt** bai ðə **fai·ə**  
æ'nd tou'ld ə **fai'n tei'l**

## Three little kittens



ABC

**þrii lit'l kit'ns**  
**ðei lost ðee mit'nz**  
**æ'nd ðei bigæ'n tə krai**  
**ou maðə dii·ə wii sædlii fii·ə**  
**au·ə mit'nz wii hæv lost**  
**wot lost yoo mit'ns**  
**yuu nootii kit'ns**  
**ðe'n yuu ſ'l hæv nou pai**  
**mii·au mii·au mii·au**  
**nou yuu ſæ'l hæv nou pai**  
**ðə þrii lit'l kit'ns**  
**ðei fau'nd ðee mit'ns**  
**æ'nd ðei bigæ'n tə krai**  
**ou maðə dii·ə**  
**sii hii·ə sii hii·ə**  
**au·ə mit'ns wii hæv fau'nd**



ABC

**ou'ld kin̩ kou'l**  
**woz ə merii ou'ld sou'l**  
**wot ə merii ou'ld sou'l woz hii**  
**hii koo'ld foo hiz paip**  
**æ'nd hii koo'ld foo hiz bou'l**  
**æ'nd hii koo'ld foo hiz fid'ləz brii**  
**evrii fid'lə hæd ə fai'n fid'l**  
**æ'nd ə verii fai'n fid'l hæd hii**  
**twii twiid'l dii twiid'l dii**  
**we'nt ðə fid'ləz**  
**ou ðeeez na'n sou ree·ə**  
**æz kæ'n k'mpee·ə**  
**wið kin̩ kou'l æ'nd hiz fid'ləz brii**



ABC

**ou'ld maðə habəd**  
**we'nt tuu ðə kabəd**  
**tuu fetʃ həə **poo** dog ə **bou'n****  
**bət we'n sii got ðee**  
**ðə kabəd woz **bee****  
**æ'nd **sou** ðə **poo** **dog** hæd **na'n****  
**sii we'nt tuu ðə **grousez****  
**tuu **bai** hi'm sa'm **fruut****  
**bət we'n sii kei'm **bæk****  
**hii woz **plei·in** ðə **fluut****  
**sii we'nt tuu ðə **hætəs****  
**tuu **bai** hi'm ə **hæt****  
**ba we'n sii kei'm **bæk****  
**hii woz **fli·diŋ** ðə **kæt****



ABC

**siŋ ə son ə siksp'ns  
 ə pokit ful əv rai  
 foor 'n tw'entii blæk bəədz  
 beikt i'n ə pai  
 we'n ðə pai woz oup'nd  
 ðə bəədz bigæ'n tə siŋ  
 woz 'nt ðæt ə dei'ntii dis  
 tuu set bifoo ðə kinj  
 ðə kinj woz i'n hiz kau'ntiŋ haus  
 kau'ntiŋ aut hiz ma'nii  
 ðə kwii'n woz i'n ðə paalə  
 iitiŋ bred 'n ha'nii  
 ðə meid woz i'n ðə gaad'n  
 hænjiŋ aut ðə klouz  
 we'n dau'n kei'm ə blækbeəd  
 æ'n pekt of həə nouz**



ABC

we'n ai woz e **bætʃələ**  
 ai livd bai maise'lif  
 'n oo'l ðə bred 'n **tʃiiz** ai got  
 ai leid əpo'n ðə se'lif  
 ðə ræts 'n ðə **mais**  
 ðei meid satʃ e **straif**  
 ai hæd tuu gou tə **la'nd'n**  
 tuu bai mii y e **waif**  
 ðə **striits** wəə sou **bæd**  
 æ'nd ðə **lei'nz** wəə sou **nærou**  
 ai wz **foost** tuu briŋ mai **waif**  
 hou'm i'n e wii'l**bærou**  
 ðə wii'l**bærou** **brouk**  
 æ'nd mai **waif** hæd e **foo'l**  
 dau'n kei'm wii'l**bærou**  
 lit'l waif 'nd **oo'l**



ABC

**tæfii woz ə  
we'lſm'n  
tæfii woz ə biif**

**tæfii kei'm tuu mai  
haus 'n stou'l ə piis  
əv biif**

ai we'nt tuu **tæfiiiz**  
haus **tæfii woz'nt**  
**i'n**

ai dʒa'mpt əpo'n  
hiz sa'ndei **hæt**  
æ'nd **poukt** it wið ə  
**pi'n**

**tæfii woz ə  
we'lſm'n tæfii woz  
ə ſæ'm**

**tæfii kei'm tuu mai  
haus 'n stou'l ə leg  
əv lae'm**

ai we'nt tuu **tæfiiiz**  
haus **tæfii woz**  
**əwei**

ai staff hiz soks wið  
**soodast** æ'nd fi'ld  
hiz ſuus wið **klei**

**tæfii woz ə  
we'lſm'n tæfii woz  
ə tʃiit**

**tæfii kei'm tuu mai  
haus 'n stou'l ə piis  
əv miit**

ai we'nt tuu **tæfiiiz**  
haus **tæfii woz i'n**  
**bed**

ai tuk ə  
**mæroubou'n** æ'nd  
**biit** hi'm o'n ðe **hed**

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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.