Sound effects in poetry

**Alliteration**—the repetition of speech sounds in nearby words (being born a boy, he was ebullient)
**Onomatopoeia**—the use of a word that sounds like its referent (buzz, crack)

**Rhyme**
**Proper rhyme**—the match of final consonant and vowel sounds (mood/brood; relation/sensation)
**End rhyme**—the rhyming of sounds at the end of two or more poetic lines
**Internal rhyme**—rhyme within a poetic line
**Off-rhyme, half rhyme, near rhyme, slant rhyme**—rhyme in which the concluding vowel or consonantal sound does not rhyme (gone/alone; room/storm)
**Rime riche**—rhyming the exact same word or sound (grate/great; mat/mat)

**Rhythm**
**English poetry** uses accentual-syllabic meter

A poem is a composition written for performance by the human voice.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . .
Feet: (clusters of two or three syllables defined by their accentual pattern)

- Iambic (New York)
- Trochaic (London)
- Anapestic (Tennessee)
- Dactylic (Leningrad)
- Spondaic
- Pyrrhic

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Monometer — A line comprised of 1 foot
Dimeter — 2 feet
Trimeter — 3
Tetrameter — 4
Pentameter — 5
Hexameter — 6
Heptameter — 7
Octameter — 8

A group of lines either set apart on the page or defined as a group by virtue of a poem's rhyme scheme:

- Couplet — 2 lines
- Tercent — 3
- Quatrain — 4
- Sestet — 6
- Octave — 8

Some standard sonnet rhyme schemes:

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<tr>
<th>Italian (Petrarchan)</th>
<th>English (Shakespearian)</th>
<th>Spenserian</th>
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Masculine rhyme: rhyme of final stressed syllable in a line (mad, bad)
Feminine rhyme: two final syllables rhyme, where the second is unaccented (shining, lining)
Some lines to practice scanning—

1. London bridge is falling down . . .

2. A crowd flowed over London bridge . . .

3. Piping down the valleys wild
   Piping songs of pleasant glee . . .

4. The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold . . .

5. Woman much missed, how you call to me, call to me . . .

6. Cannon to right of them,
   Cannon to left of them . . .

7. I went into a theater as sober as could be,
   They gave a drunk civilian room, but 'adn't none for me . . .

8. Till the Spinner of the Years
   Said "Now!" And each one hears,
   And consummation comes, and jars two hemispheres.

9. I can hardly misconceive you; it would prove me deaf and blind;
   But although I take your meaning, 'tis with such a heavy mind!

10. The land was ours before we were the land's.
    She was our land more than a hundred years
    Before we were her people . . .

11. Listen! you hear the grating roar
    Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling . . .