

Shakespeare's Iambic Pentameter

1. What is iambic pentameter?

2. A line of iambic pentameter has _____ syllables per line.

3. Using "de" to represent an unstressed syllable, and "DUM" to represent a stressed syllable, write out the rhythm of one line of iambic pentameter.

4. How did Shakespeare use iambic pentameter to indicate the social class of his characters to his audience?

5. On the line below, copy a line of Shakespeare's iambic pentameter from a play you have recently read. Above the words, mark each syllable as unstressed (indicated below by the ~ symbol over the word) or stressed (indicated below by the / symbol over the word).

6. What is the general effect of iambic pentameter?

