



# The Word Rhythm Dictionary: A Resource for Writers, Rappers, Poets, and Lyricists

*Timothy Polashek*

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*The Word Rhythm Dictionary: A Resource for Writers, Rappers, Poets, and Lyricists* is a new kind of dictionary—one that reflects the use of “rhythm rhymes” by rappers, poets, and songwriters of today. This is an eminently practical reference work for all wordsmiths looking to add musicality to their writing. Users of this dictionary can alphabetically look up words in the General Index to find collections of words that have the same *rhythm* as the original word and are readily useable in ways that are familiar to us in everything from *vers libre* poetry to the lyrics and music of Bob Dylan and hip hop groups.

Professional writers and students have long used traditional rhyming dictionaries for inspiration by perusing lists of rhyming words; they may ask themselves, “I need a word that rhymes with *blue*,” and are led to *shoe*, *flu*, or *you*. These rhyming words evoke through juxtaposition new images, thoughts, and actions that inspire creative directions and pleasing twists as verses and stanzas unfold. For the first time ever, this dictionary now allows writers and poets to ask the same question, but of word rhythm— “I need a word with the same rhythm as *butterfly*. . . .” Today’s lyricists and poets know that there is so much more to the flow of their creations than just matching vowels.

*The Word Rhythm Dictionary* organizes words by additional properties: phonetic similarity (alliteration and literary consonance), the number of syllables in words, and syllable stress patterns. Never has it been easier to locate words that feature similar sounds, matching meters, and rhythmic grooves, from traditional rhymes like “clashing” and “splashing,” to near rhymes like “rollover” and “bulldozer,” “unrefuted undisputed” to pure metrical matches, like “biology” and “photography.” Additional appendixes allow readers to search according to poetic metrical feet and musical rhythm through a visual index of notated rhythms, allowing musicians and lyricists to track down words that match preexisting motives and melodies. This book could become the new fun addiction (or... addiction affliction...constriction conviction...conniption prescription...subscription conscription) for writers, musicians, lyricists, rappers, poets, and wordsmiths alike. Oh, and it’s a lot of fun just to browse!

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