



# Writing a Cinquain Poem



A cinquain is a five-line poem that was invented in the 1900s by American poet Adelaide Crapsey. Traditional cinquains use a five-line format that is based on a syllable count. The modern cinquain also uses a five-line format, but instead of counting syllables the modern cinquain uses a word count format. Each line must contain a certain number of words.

## The Correct Layout of a Modern Cinquain Poem:



**line 1:** one word (noun) a title or subject

**line 2:** two words (adjectives) describing the title

**line 3:** three words (verbs that end in -ing) describing an action related to the title

**line 4:** four words written as a phrase that describe line 1

**line 5:** one word that can be a synonym for the title



## Example:

Spring  
Green, bright  
Budding, rising, growing  
Shaking off winter's chill  
Bloom



## Your Turn!

Write your own cinquain using the space provided. When you're done, you can cut out your poem to give to a friend or a loved one!

one noun

two adjectives

three verbs

four-word phrase

one noun