

The 3rd Cambridge English Limerick Competition, in collaboration with the British Embassy and the British Council

Are there any poets in your classroom?

Find out by participating in ... **The 3rd Cambridge English Limerick Contest**

This enjoyable activity, which can be used as a classroom activity, will help your students improve their writing through poetry. Poetry will stimulate their creativity and support their word acquisition and accuracy.

What is a Limerick?

A Limerick is a form of poetry that complies with the following characteristics:

- Limericks are 5 lines long.
- Usually, lines 1, 2 and 5 have seven to ten syllables each.
- Lines 3 and 4 usually have five to seven syllables.
- The rhyme scheme is "a a b b a"
- Lines 1, 2 and 5 rhyme with one another
- Lines 3 and 4 rhyme with one another.
- The last word of the poem is often the same as the last word of lines 1 or 2.

What are the origins of the Limerick?

The origins are not clear at all, but the form can be found in England as early as the beginning of the 18th century. The form was popularised by Edward Lear, the English writer and artist, in the 19th century; and was first documented in the United Kingdom in the New English Dictionary (1898).

Can I see an example of a Limerick?

*There was an old person of Dover,
Who rushed through a field of blue clover;
But some very large bees,
Stung his nose and his knees,
So he very soon went back to Dover.*

Edward Lear

Who is this contest for?

Bachillerato or 2nd Cycle ESO students studying in an *Instituto de Enseñanza Secundaria* or any Secondary school institution in Spain at the same age level (14 to 18 years).

How does this contest work?

Very simple! Explain to your students what a Limerick is and how to write one, have them compose a Limerick and send them to:

LimerickCompetition@cambridgeenglish.es.

Please, make sure you include the following details in your email:

- Name of the school
- Class
- Name of the teacher that presents the group of students.
- The student's name should appear after each Limerick.

What are the rules of the contest?

- The Limericks must be original.
- One illustration to accompany the Limerick is permitted.
- All poems must be written in English.
- The poems must conform to the form: AABBA rhyme and 5 lines; the third and fourth being shorter.
- Limericks can be daring but in no case should include foul or vulgar language.
- Only one Limerick per participant.
- The poems must be sent, by the student's teacher, to the above email **before the 5th of May 2017 (12 pm)**.

How will the Limericks be judged?

A judging panel including members from Cambridge English and the British Embassy will judge the Limericks taking into account correct use of the English language, correct rhyming and the creativity involved.

The winners will be announced on the Cambridge English Language Assessment Spain & Portugal [news blog](#) on the 19th of May.

What will the winners of the contest receive?

There will be two sets of prizes for the winner and the runner-up.

In both cases, the student and the teacher will receive a useful and handy eBook, as well as interesting pedagogical material from Cambridge English.

The winning teacher and student will also visit the British Embassy in Madrid, where the prize will be handed over, in an event that will be announced to the winners.

You will be able to find news regarding the Limerick contest and up to date information and activities by visiting:

noticiascambridgeenglish.org