



Lesson: Rhythm and Syllables in 2/2 Time with Subdivisions

Ages: 11 - 18

Projected time: 40-60min total

Supplies needed: Pencil, writing paper, a metronome.

Rhyming Dictionary: Rhymer.com

Metronome: Google Metronome

Project Intro: Students will write simple poems with a strong emphasize on rhymes. These poems, along with a metronome, will be used to help students become familiar with subdivisions in the time signature of 4/4.

Vocabulary:

Beat: a main accent or rhythmic unit in music or poetry.

Measure: a segment of time within a piece of music defined by a given number of beats.

Time Signature: the time signature is used to specify how many beats are contained within each measure and which note value is equivalent to a beat. Time signatures use fractions to represent note values.

Example: 1/1 = 1 whole note	1 whole note = 2 half notes
1/2 = 1 half note	1 half note = 2 quarter notes
1/4 = 1 quarter note	1 quarter note = 2 eighth notes
1/8 = 1 eight note	1 eight note = 2 sixteenth notes
1/16 = 1 sixteenth note	1 sixteenth note = 2 thirty-second notes
1/32 = 1 thirty-second note	1 thirty-second note = 2 sixty-fourth notes

Subdivision: The act of breaking down or dividing the duration of a note or pitch into smaller and equal parts.

Shorthand: a method of writing rapidly where one substitutes symbols for words.



2/2 time signature: The bottom number (the denominator) represents which note value receives a beat (half note in our case). The top number (the numerator) represents the total number of beats within a given measure. When we discuss time signatures we say it as “two two” and not “two over two”.

A 2/2 time signature (image above) tells us that there are a total of two (top number) half notes (bottom number) in a given measure.



Metronome: a device used by musicians that marks time at a selected rate by giving a regular tick.

Poem: a piece of writing in which the words are arranged in separate lines, often ending in rhyme, and are chosen for their sound and for the images and ideas they suggest.

PART 1: Subdividing the beat

1. On paper, write the following phrase with the plus signs and an equal amount of space between each one: 1 + 2 +

Example:

1 + 2 +

2. When reading rhythms, the plus sign is read as “and”, so when you read it out loud you should say “one and two and”. Remember that in math the plus sign is still read as “plus”.
3. Now get a metronome ticking and set it to 120 beats per minute or 120bpm.
4. Begin reading out the phrase that you wrote and read it in time with each tick that you hear. Try to start saying each one at the same time that you expect to hear a click, anticipate the tick. Do not speak after or before the tick.

Example: Metronome: Tick Tick Tick Tick Tick...

You: *one and *two and *one...

5. Continue reading and put a little more emphasis or weight on the word “one” and “two”(see the star by the words?). Continue reading in time with the tick of the metronome until it feels natural and easy.
6. You are now counting in 2/2 Time with subdivisions.
7. Turn off the metronome. Can you keep counting in time without the help of the metronome? If you think you can then move on to Part 2 after reading the following passage.

2/2 time means there are a total of two ½ notes per measure. When we divide a ½ into two equal parts we get two ¼ notes. Here’s how the notes would look like on sheet music:

Part 2: Four Syllable Poems

Two 1/4 notes = One 1/2 note

one and two and one+ two+

1. Let's write a new poem with four syllables per line. Make the poem as long as you want and as weird or funny as you want. Try to use every line of your writing paper, the longer the better.
2. There are two rules:
 1. four syllables per line.
 2. try to make the last syllable of each line rhyme with the last syllable of the next line.

**Example: Tall Gorilla
Not godzilla
In my city
Brings down buildings**

Part 3: Rhyming in 2/2 Time

Now let's combine our poem with the tick of our metronome!

1. Set a metronome to 120 beats per minute or 120bpm and leave it running for the rest of the steps.
2. Warm up by counting from 1 to 4 along with the metronome. When you get comfortable keeping time, move on to the next step.
3. Grab your paper with your long poem and start reading it out loud in time with the tick. Make sure to say one syllable per tick.

Did you finish reading it and it felt too easy?

4. Now read it again and now say two syllables per tick.

Example: tick... tick...
 1 + 2 +
 Tall Go - ril - la

YOU'RE FINISHED! GOOD JOB!