Meter

A regular pattern of unstressed and stressed syllables in a line or lines of poetry. Below is an illustration of some commonly used metrical patterns:

**lamb**

| whose woods | these are | I think | I know |

**Trochee**

| Irish | poets | learn your | trade |

**Anapest**

| As I came | to the edge | of the woods |

**Dactyl**

| Half a league, | Half a league, | Half a league, | onward |

**Spondee**

| Now, by heaven, | My blood begins my | safer guides to rule, |

Foot

The basic unit of measurement in a line of poetry. In scansion, a foot represents one instance of a metrical pattern and is shown either between or to the right or left of vertical lines, as in the following:

| whose woods | these are | I think | I know |

The meter in a poem is classified according both to its pattern and the number of feet to the line. Below is a list of classifications:

- monometer = one foot to a line
- Dimeter = two feet to a line
- Trimeter = three feet to a line
- Tetrameter = four feet to a line
- Pentameter = five feet to a line