

# How to write your own Solage

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## This is a solage:

*The leader of the choir  
tripped on a faulty wire  
- conductor*

## The definition of a solage:

A solage is a very short poem that has two small lines that rhyme and ends with a single word.

## Opening suggestions:

Start by sticking closely to the formula as described above: keep the lines as short as possible; a good rhyme makes it catchy and memorable; and end with a single, short word because this makes it like a punch line. For example:

*Bought a shoe  
one, not two  
- hopped*

And don't just try and write one – try to write at least 5 every time you have a go. The more you write, the better you'll get at writing them. And different people will like different ones too!

## Writing from the top down:

A solage can be about whatever you want. If you're struggling for ideas it's often good to start looking around where you are. Maybe you're at school, if so, you could begin by writing: *I went to school*. Then look for a rhyme with school, like pool, ghoul, wool or fool, and create an appropriate second line, like: *felt a fool*. Then all you have to do is think of a few reasons why you would feel like a fool going to school, like: because you forgot your homework; because you went on a Saturday thinking it was a weekday, or some other reason, like this:

*Went to school  
felt a fool  
- naked*

This process I call "writing from the top down" – you simply start with a line and see what happens!

## Writing from the bottom up:

You can also write solages from the bottom up. Writing from the last line *up* might sound weird, but it is usually the best way to finish well. It is often much easier to write two rhyming lines than to come up with a good last line. These are solages written from the bottom up:

*Welcoming sea  
welcoming me  
- waves*

*How do I get there?  
And what will I wear?  
- a dress*

### **Keep it short:**

It has been said that “brevity is the soul of wit”, which means that the fewer words you use, often the smarter, better and funnier it will be! For example have a look at these two solages:

*It's smoky - my chimney is clotting  
and it smells - something is rotting  
- Santa Claus*

Sure, this solage works, but by cutting it down to just five words, it works even better:

*Chimney clotted  
something rotted  
- Santa*

### **Funny or serious:**

Because the solage is so short and punchy, its structure lends itself to humour, but this doesn't always have to be the case. They can be serious too, like these:

*A priest talking  
a tiger stalking  
- prey*

*Both tiny when bright  
my students of light  
- pupils*

### **Experiment:**

Once you've had a good go at writing solages true to the basic formula, then you can begin to experiment with the formula a bit, seeing what else can work. Like these ones:

*If you can't own a  
Mona  
- lease 'er*

*Can't write a word upon  
the paper my head is on  
- the writer's block*

**Helpful hint:**

It's always good to try and work out why a poem works, because then you can start to create good poems not just by fluke, but by actually applying things you're learned from the one's that have already been written!

**Now it's your turn:**

Yes, now it's time for you to write your own solages. Impress your friends. Impress yourself! Go for it!