

TEI BY EXAMPLE



MODULE 4: POETRY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

3. Rhyme.....	1
3.1 Rhyming Words.....	1
3.2 Rhyme Patterns.....	2
3.3 Rhyming Words and Patterns.....	3

3. Rhyme

So far, all of the elements and attributes for structuring verse texts were members of the “common” elements and attributes defined in the **core** TEI module. Yet, TEI provides a specific **verse** module as well, which defines a number of elements and attributes specific for the encoding of verse texts. Some of these will be discussed in the following sections. In order to use them, a TEI schema must include all (or just the required) components of that **verse** module; see [Module 8: Customising TEI, ODD, Roma](#) for a tutorial on how to customise TEI.

3.1 Rhyming Words

The rhyming words of a line of verse can be encoded using the appropriate `<rhyme>` element:

```
<lg xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0" type="poem">
  <lg type="stanza">
    <l>
      <rhyme>Poppadom</rhyme>
    </l>
    <l>
      <rhyme>Oatmeal</rhyme>
    </l>
    <l>Bubble <rhyme>gum</rhyme></l>
    <l>Cut of <rhyme>veal</rhyme></l>
  </lg>
  <lg type="stanza">
    <l>Mince for <rhyme>pie</rhyme></l>
    <l>Frozen <rhyme>peas</rhyme></l>
    <l>Video for <rhyme>Guy</rhyme></l>
    <l>Selection of <rhyme>teas</rhyme></l>
  </lg>
  <lg type="stanza">
    <l>Paper towels/garbage <rhyme>bags</rhyme></l>
    <l>Pasta sauce and <rhyme>Parmesan</rhyme></l>
    <l>Pumpkin seed and olive <rhyme>oil</rhyme></l>
  </lg>
  <lg type="stanza">
    <l>Cheesy crisps and favourite <rhyme>mags</rhyme></l>
    <l>Kidney beans (1 large <rhyme>can</rhyme>)</l>
  </lg>
</lg>
```

```

    <l>Cling film and kitchen <rhyme>foil</rhyme></l>
  </lg>
</lg>

```

Example 15. Encoding rhyme words with `<rhyme>`.

`<rhyme>` can appear anywhere in the line. This way, not only end-of-line rhymes can be tagged but also internal rhyme, even inside prose(-like) paragraphs like in the following fragment:

```

<p xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0"><rhyme>This</rhyme> <rhyme>course</rhyme>
on verse <rhyme>is</rhyme> <rhyme>terse</rhyme> and provides a <rhyme>fine</rhyme>
de<rhyme>sign</rhyme> for the study of poetry like <rhyme>yours</rhyme>
and <rhyme>mine</rhyme></p>

```

Example 16. `<rhyme>` can be used inside prose paragraphs, too.

3.2 Rhyme Patterns

Rhyme patterns can be documented with a `@rhyme` attribute which has a default notation in which distinct letters stand for rhyming lines. This attribute can be added to `<lg>` and/or to `<l>`, and also to any `<div>` element that is used for the encoding of poetry. Of course, the

The rhyme scheme in the shopping list poem is *ababdcdefgefg*. This can be documented inside the `@rhyme` attribute of `<lg type="poem">`. The rhyme scheme of the separate stanzas can be encoded inside the `@rhyme` attribute of `<lg type="stanza">`, and even the rhyme scheme of the separate lines can technically be encoded inside the `@rhyme` attribute of the `<l>` element. The complexity of the use of all these options depends on the encoder. A maximally complex encoding could be the following:

```

<lg xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0" type="poem" rhyme="ababdcdefgefg">
  <lg type="stanza">
    <l rhyme="a">
      <rhyme>Poppadom</rhyme>
    </l>
    <l rhyme="b">
      <rhyme>Oatmeal</rhyme>
    </l>
  </lg>
</lg>

```

```

    </l>
    <l rhyme="a">Bubble <rhyme>gum</rhyme></l>
    <l rhyme="b">Cut of <rhyme>veal</rhyme></l>
  </lg>
  <lg type="stanza">
    <l rhyme="c">Mince for <rhyme>pie</rhyme></l>
    <l rhyme="d">Frozen <rhyme>peas</rhyme></l>
    <l rhyme="c">Video for <rhyme>Guy</rhyme></l>
    <l rhyme="d">Selection of <rhyme>teas</rhyme></l>
  </lg>
  <lg type="stanza">
    <l rhyme="e">Paper towels/garbage <rhyme>bags</rhyme></l>
    <l rhyme="f">Pasta sauce and <rhyme>Parmesan</rhyme></l>
    <l rhyme="g">Pumpkin seed and olive <rhyme>oil</rhyme></l>
  </lg>
  <lg type="stanza">
    <l rhyme="e">Cheesy crisps and favourite <rhyme>mags</rhyme></l>
    <l rhyme="f">Kidney beans (1 large <rhyme>can</rhyme>)</l>
    <l rhyme="g">Cling film and kitchen <rhyme>foil</rhyme></l>
  </lg>
</lg>

```

Example 17. Encoding the rhyme scheme of different structural units, with @rhyme.

3.3 Rhyming Words and Patterns

The correspondence between the rhyming pattern documented in the @rhyme attribute and the rhyming words encoded with the <rhyme> element can be specified in a @label attribute on the <rhyme> element. The value of this attribute is usually one of the letters of the rhyme pattern. Applied to the shopping list poem, this results in the following encoding:

```

<lg xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0" type="poem" rhyme="ababdcdefgefg">
  <lg type="stanza">
    <l>
      <rhyme label="a">Poppadom</rhyme>
    </l>
    <l>

```

```

    <rhyme label="b">0atmeal</rhyme>
  </l>
  <l>Bubble <rhyme label="a">gum</rhyme></l>
  <l>Cut of <rhyme label="b">veal</rhyme></l>
</lg>
<lg type="stanza">
  <l>Mince for <rhyme label="c">pie</rhyme></l>
  <l>Frozen <rhyme label="d">peas</rhyme></l>
  <l>Video for <rhyme label="c">Guy</rhyme></l>
  <l>Selection of <rhyme label="d">teas</rhyme></l>
</lg>
<lg type="stanza">
  <l>Paper towels/garbage <rhyme label="e">bags</rhyme></l>
  <l>Pasta sauce and <rhyme label="f">Parmesan</rhyme></l>
  <l>Pumpkin seed and olive <rhyme label="g">oil</rhyme></l>
</lg>
<lg type="stanza">
  <l>Cheesy crisps and favourite <rhyme label="e">mags</rhyme></l>
  <l>Kidney beans (1 large <rhyme label="f">can</rhyme>)</l>
  <l>Cling film and kitchen <rhyme label="g">foil</rhyme></l>
</lg>
</lg>

```

Example 18. Identifying a <rhyme> in a rhyme scheme with @label.

All <rhyme> elements with the same value for their @label attribute are assumed to rhyme with each other within a given scope. That scope is defined by the nearest ancestor element for which the @rhyme attribute has been supplied.

In the following encoding of the same poem, the scope is defined by the nearest ancestor element with a @rhyme attribute, i.e., the <lg type="stanza"> element. This means that the rhyming words labelled a, b, or c are only assumed to rhyme inside that stanza and not across stanzas:

```

<lg xmlns="http://www.tei-c.org/ns/1.0" type="poem">
  <lg type="stanza" rhyme="abab">
    <l>

```

```

    <rhyme label="a">Poppadom</rhyme>
  </l>
<l>
  <rhyme label="b">Oatmeal</rhyme>
</l>
<l>Bubble <rhyme label="a">gum</rhyme></l>
<l>Cut of <rhyme label="b">veal</rhyme></l>
</lg>
<lg type="stanza" rhyme="abab">
  <l>Mince for <rhyme label="a">pie</rhyme></l>
  <l>Frozen <rhyme label="b">peas</rhyme></l>
  <l>Video for <rhyme label="a">Guy</rhyme></l>
  <l>Selection of <rhyme label="b">teas</rhyme></l>
</lg>
<lg type="stanza" rhyme="abc">
  <l>Paper towels/garbage <rhyme label="a">bags</rhyme></l>
  <l>Pasta sauce and <rhyme label="b">Parmesan</rhyme></l>
  <l>Pumpkin seed and olive <rhyme label="c">oil</rhyme></l>
</lg>
<lg type="stanza" rhyme="abc">
  <l>Cheesy crisps and favourite <rhyme label="a">mags</rhyme></l>
  <l>Kidney beans (1 large <rhyme label="b">can</rhyme>)</l>
  <l>Cling film and kitchen <rhyme label="c">foil</rhyme></l>
</lg>
</lg>

```

Example 19. The nearest ancestor element with a `@rhyme` attribute determines the scope for `@label`.

SUMMARY

The occurrence of rhyming words and rhyming patterns and their correspondence can be encoded by a combination of tags and attribute values. Depending on the encoder's preferences, they can be applied to different structural levels of the text.