

# LYRICS WORKSHEET

## THE RHYME FAMILIES CHART

### RHYME DEFINITIONS

Perfect rhyme is just that – perfect: (1) syllable vowel sounds are the same, (2) consonant sounds after the vowels are the same if there are any, and (3) the sounds before the vowels are different. Example: snow, blow or dependent, evident. Plurals (*cats*) don't rhyme with singulars (*bat*). These would be considered “false rhymes” or “imperfect rhymes.” A big no-no for purists.

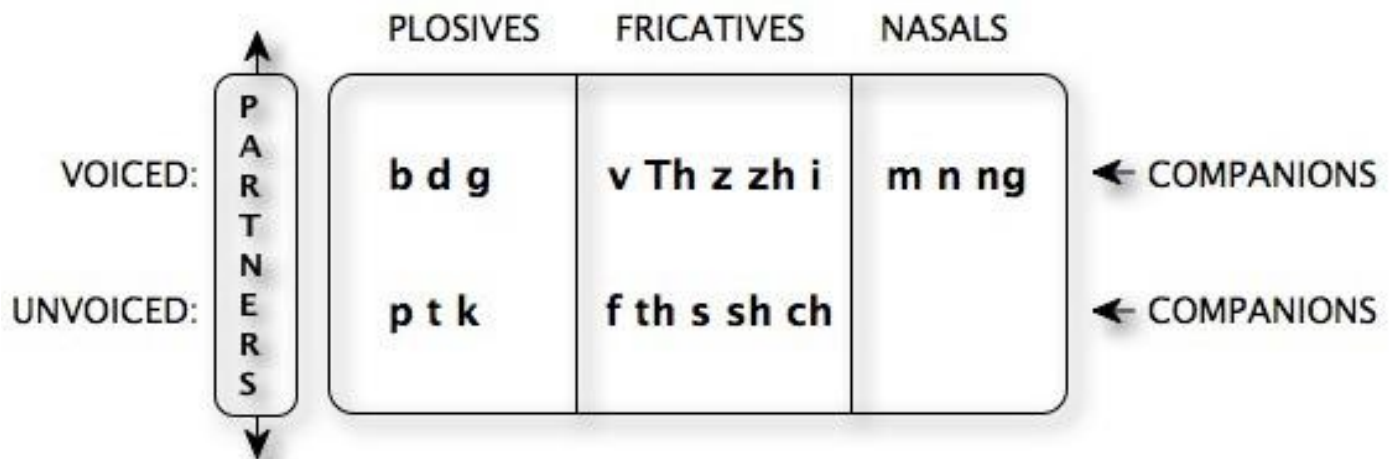
Imperfect rhymes, or family rhymes, are words whose: (1) syllable vowel sounds are the same, (2) consonant sounds after the vowels belong to the same phonetic family, and (3) the sounds before the vowels are different. Example: snow, nose or break, cage.

### HOW THE RHYME FAMILIES CHART WORKS

Consonants in language are broken into four groups:

1. Plosives: these are stop consonants or explosions of sound, like drums if you think of a noise component in music (b d g t);
2. Fricatives, which are like shakers (v z);
3. Sibilants, which are like cymbals and sound like a hissing noise (f th s); and
4. Nasals, which resonate from the nasal cavity (m n ng).

It's also handy to remember their sounds when you're choosing your end rhymes. Afterall, someone has to sing them – how nasally do you want it to sound? If you were to put the consonants in a chart to help you navigate the rhyming families, it would look like this:



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### INSTRUCTIONS:

#### ① FIND YOUR PERFECT RHYMES

Before you start looking for alternatives, first look up a perfect rhyme in your rhyming dictionary. You'll look for the vowel sound and the consonant using the "rules" for perfect rhyme outlined earlier.

#### ② CREATE YOUR SIMILE LIST & ADD THE WHY/HOW

After you've found your rhyme, move to the sounds within the same family using the chart above.

For example, if you have an end consonant of "b," a voiced plosive, once you've tried "d" and "g" as an end consonant, move to the unvoiced plosives. The closer you stay to the family you started in, the better the rhyme will sound – i.e., not forced.

#### ③ LET'S PRACTICE!

1. Hubcap

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2. Snow

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3. Gold

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