



Acrostics



What's an acrostic?

An acrostic is a fun form of poetry that anyone can write. In an acrostic, the first letter of each line of a poem spells out a word or message.

In medieval times (approximately from the fifth century to the late fifteenth century), acrostics became a popular way to honor a famous poet or compose a prayer to a saint. Today they're written about any subject, from something fun (like eating ice cream) to something to grumble about (cleaning your room).

Use this guide and have fun writing one (or more) acrostic poems in honor of Valentine's Day!

Items you will need:

- Paper and pen/pencil
- OR a computer

How do I write my own acrostic?

1. Choose a topic to write about (for example, love). Next, think of a short word or phrase about your topic, such as "I love you."
2. Write out the word or phrase you chose one letter at a time down your piece of paper. If you capitalize the first letters of each line, it will be easier to see your word or phrase:

I ...
L ...
O ...
V ...
E ...
Y ...
O ...
U ...





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3. Consider or reflect on what this word or phrase makes you think of and list your ideas. Every line of your poem should describe something about your idea. For example, maybe you want to write a poem for your favorite teacher. You could list all of the things you like about how they teach that makes you love them. Do they inspire or encourage you? Do they laugh a lot, or make you laugh? Below are some examples. You could write the first letters in a different color (we bolded them) to see if they match your word for your poem.

Have fun learning **L**isten **V**alue my ideas **O**ffer encouragement

Inspire **E**njoy singing **R**ead aloud **O**pen your heart **L**augh a lot

4. Turn your ideas into short words or sentences that start with one of the first letters of your lines. Your lines can rhyme, be long or short, and be a single word or a string of words. Be creative! For example:

I LOVE YOU because you

Inspire

Laugh

Offer encouragement

Value me

Enjoy singing

Y

Open your heart

U





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5.If some of the letters (like the blanks above) stump you, try completing them with connecting thoughts, such as these:

I LOVE YOU because you

Inspire.

Laugh.

Offer encouragement.

Value me.

Enjoy singing.

Yesterday you also

Open your heart wide and

U love us back!

6.FINALLY, read your poem aloud to see if there is anything you want to change or add. Does it have a nice flow and rhythm? Rewrite parts of your poem if you need to. When you have finished revising and polishing it, give it to the person you wrote it for or about. Have fun writing and delivering your acrostic poem!

For related fun:

- Use a big piece of paper and write out the first letters in paint.
- Chalk the poem on a driveway or playground.

