

Anapest

Anapest is a metrical foot used when scanning poems. It is 3 syllables; 2 unstressed syllables and 1 stressed syllable. Anapest is the opposite of a dactyl (2 stressed and 1 unstressed syllables).

Anapest describes one foot of a verse while **anapestic** can describe multiple feet in a line or a whole poem.

It affects the syntax, rhythm, and style of the poem.

“seventeen” and “intercede” are one word examples of anapest.

Written **u u /**

Examples:

Clement C. Moore's poem, “Twas the Night Before Christmas” is almost all anapest.

The Destruction of Sennacherib

by

Lord Byron

The Assyrian came **down** like a **wolf** on the **fold**
And his **cohorts** were **gleaming** in **purple** and **gold**
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee

Link: <http://www.poeticterminology.net/47-anapaest-literary-term.htm>