

## Haiku Contest for International Students at Sophia University

参考) Reference note :

What is 「Haiku」 ? :

A Haiku is a short poem that uses imagistic language to convey the essence of an experience of nature or the season intuitively linked to the human condition.

(Quoted from the Haiku Society of America”HSA”’s definition of Haiku.)

Haiku is a symbolic form of poetry that has ceased to be eloquent.

### A. 日本語「俳句」

1. 「俳句」の作り方 :

- \* 17 音節 (おんせつ : 5-7-5 moras “Japanese syllables”) で作るのが望ましい。
- \* 季節の言葉 (季語 : kigo) を一つ入れて下さい (季節感を盛り込む)。
- \* 俳句は、異なったイメージやアイデアを一句の中に並記(juxtapose)させるのが一般的な作り方です。これを「切れ (kire) (前後の内容が切れている部分)」がある俳句」と言い、短い俳句の内容を大きくふくらませてくれる働きがあります。

2. 「俳句」の 1 例 :

「古池や蛙飛びこむ水の音 (ふるいけや／かわずとびこむみずのおと)」(芭蕉 Basho)

この俳句は、

- \* 古池(ふるいけ furuike) 4 音節 + や(ya) 1 音節 + 蛙(かわず kawazu かえるの 別名) 3 音節 + 飛びこむ(tobikomu) 4 音節 + 水 (みず mizu) 2 音節 + の(no) 1 音節 + 音 (おと oto) 2 音節 = 17 音節から成り立っています。
- \* 「蛙 (かわず)」は「春」を表す季節の言葉 (季語) です。
- \* 「古池や」と「蛙飛びこむ水の音」の間に「切れ(kire)」が入ってます ( / で示す)。  
「や」を切字 (kireji : cutting word) と言います。

## B. 「Haiku」 in English

### 1. How to compose Haiku in English :

Haiku is the content and not the form alone that composes it.

\* Please write in 3 lines.

\* It doesn't require the 5-7-5 syllables.

Instead try to write in such brief length as if of one or two breaths in reading.

\* The most common technique of Haiku is juxtaposing two images or ideas.

This can be done by using “kire”, or a cut in the middle of Haiku.

\* Try to include a season word that tells which season your Haiku is about.

\* English Haiku doesn't have to rhyme.

### 2. Reference :

Please refer to the Haiku Society of America”HSA” ’s English Haiku Philosophy.

<https://www.hsa-haiku.org/hsa-definitions.html>

<https://www.hsa-haiku.org/education.htm>

### 3. Examples of Haiku in English :

#### (a) English translation of Basho's Haiku (listed above) :

(There are many many English translations of this famous Haiku.)

An example :

(Translated by Donald Keene)

Furu ike ya

The ancient pond

Kawazu tobikomu

==>

A frog leaps in

mizu no oto

The sound of the water.

\* “The ancient pond” and “A frog leaps in” are not meant to be read in one flow.

There is no punctuation mark “ -- “ in the original translation.

However, one idea for composing Haiku in English might be to add “--” to

the end of the line to clearly separate the two parts of the phrase.

That is, like this ==> The ancient pond --

By using -- ; the punctuation at the end of the line, you can indicate that there is a cut in your Haiku. In Japanese we use “ya”, the small word called kire-ji “so called cutting word” for this purpose. You, as a reader of Haiku, supposed to feel the void between two parts of one Haiku.

(b) Haiku in English :

Example 1.

A bitter morning :

sparrows sitting together

without any necks

( Author : James W. Hackett )

\* “A bitter morning” is a seasonal word for winter.

\* Between “A bitter morning” and “sparrows sitting together”, there is a punctuation mark, i.e., a colon. This works as a cutting word.

Remember , a cutting word enables you to give birth to vaster and deeper space for your Haiku.

Example 2.

a poof of powder

from the donut bag

spring petals

( Author : Michelle Schaefer )

\* “A poof of powder from the donut bag” and “spring petals”

are two separate images. Even without any kireji, or punctuation mark, you are supposed to feel the cut.

This cut works for readers and they are naturally ushered into the spring breeze!

Dear international students !

Let's enjoy composing Haiku !

If you have any questions, please email us at the address below.

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Thank you.