Some while ago, we began to consider the whole class of words (and other dictionary items) where the first part rhymes with the second part. Many of the simplest examples are what are called second-order reduplications. In a second-order reduplication, the spelling of the first and second parts differ by only a single letter (for example, HOOTCHIE-KOOTCHIE). Not all second-order reduplications necessarily have the two halves rhyming (for example, MISHMASH and SENSED). Examples of rhyming second-order reduplications are these:

- backpack
- boogie-woogie
- bowwow
- culture-vulture
- fat cat
- hanky-panky
- hi-fi
- higgledy-piggledy
- Hong Kong
- jet set
- jingling
- killer-diller
- kiwi
- nitwit
- payday
- voodoo

CULTURE VULTURE is from A Dictionary of New English; JET SET is from 6000 Words: A Supplement to Webster’s Third New International Dictionary; the remaining terms are all from Webster’s Third.

The rhyming terms in the next batch of examples have common letter groups in their first and second parts causing them to rhyme, but otherwise have a more complicated structure than the second-order reduplications seen above. Sixteen examples:

- backtrack
- jeepers creepers
- blackjack
- la-di-da
- claptrap
- nitty-gritty
- ding-a-ling
- okeydokey
- double-trouble
- razzmatazz
- grandstand
- slim-jim
- itsy-bitsy
- true-blue
- jai alai
- tutti-frutti

NITTY-GRITTY is the only term not taken from the main body of Webster’s Third; it comes from the 6000 Words supplement.

The third group of rhyming terms is composed of items where the rhyming parts are not represented by the same letters. Another sixteen examples for you to chew over:

- eighter from Decatur
- Eytie
- even Stephen
- go-slow
ASS OF WORDS

The text contains a list of words that are called homonyms, i.e., words that are spelled alike but sounded differently, with all pronunciations given. The items where the sons rise meet the sun's rays meet. In 1976, Dora Newhouse issued a dictionary of homonyms reviewed in the November 1978 Word Ways; this has now been joined by James B. Hobbs's Homophones and Homographs (McFarland & Co., 1986), available for $25.95 from the publisher at Box 611, Jefferson NC 28640. Newhouse drew her homonyms from 12 dictionaries, Hobbs almost totally relies on Webster's Third, excluding obsolete and archaic words, regional words, slang, and most foreign placenames and coins. As can be seen from a comparison of their XYZ homonyms, the two books have similar but not identical coverage (N stands for Newhouse, H for Hobbs):

X: xanthin-xanthine N, xenia-zinna H, xiphoiz-ziphoid H
Y: yap-yapp HN, yar-yarr N, yawn-yon HN, yeld-yelde-yelled N, yew-you-ewe HN, yews-use-ews HN, yoke-yolk N, you'll-Yule HN, your-you're-ure-(yore) HN, yucca-ucu H
Z: zein-zeine N, zinc-zink H, zilla-zillah N, zombie-zombi N

These books are the most comprehensive homonym dictionaries in print. Hobbs has also included a dictionary of heteronyms, words that are spelled alike but sounded differently, with all pronunciations given (pate is the only four-way example). The two books agree on the largest homonymic group, but Newhouse creates more alternatives by using regional or archaic words excluded by Hobbs: air-are-e'er-ere-err-eyre-heir-(aire-Ayr-eir-eire-erre-eyr-ore).