

**Now try it on your own. Write 5 matching couplets on any subject.**

### **Taking Leave of a Friend**

Blue mountains to the north of the walls,  
White river winding about them;  
Here we must make separation  
And go out through a thousand miles of dead grass.  
Mind like a floating wide cloud.  
Sunset like the parting of gold acquaintances  
Who bow over their clasped hands at a distance.  
Our horses neigh to each other as we are departing.

(Ezra Pound 译)

### **送友人**

青山横北郭，  
白水绕东城。  
此地一为别，  
孤蓬万里征。  
浮云游子意，  
落日故人情。  
挥手自兹去，  
萧萧班马鸣。

(李白)

## Chinese Matching Couplets! (Poem #2)

青山橫北郭，	green	mountain	horizon(tal)	north	wall
白水繞東城。	white	water	winding	east	city
	(color)	(nature)	(shape/verb)	(direction)	(place)

Many Chinese poems include matching couplets. A couplet is two lines that go together - a couple of lines. The matching part means that each word mirrors the corresponding word in the other line. So, above, we have five words in each line, and each word matches up to five categories (color, nature, shape, direction, place).

English and Chinese are very different languages, so in English you might need to add a preposition (to, for, in, by, etc.) or auxiliary verb (will, be, have, going to, etc.). But the principle remains the same:

Winter	chills	cut through	snow	coat
Spring	warmth	radiates on	sun	dress
(season)	(temperature)	(verb)	(nature)	(clothes)

Try to complete the following couplets:

1. Mt. Hood                      peeks out                      from behind                      the clouds
2. My friends                      laugh                                      at Youtube                      on smartphones
3. Politicians                      lie    through their teeth
4. I                                      got                                      hot sauce                                      in my bag                                      swag
5. Students                      love    to sleep in                                      on Saturday