



Portland Classical Chinese Garden A Collage of Lines from the Past into the Present

Within the Chinese scholar's garden, two-line poems are most often found as vertical couplets on either side of an entryway or on two parallel pillars found inside or outside garden buildings. The couplet may arise from the poet's response to a mood produced by the changing landscape.

Sometimes, a couplet may combine one original line by the poet with a line found in a couplet written hundreds of years earlier. Couplets may actually be written as a collage of lines, in which two matching lines—from two different poets—are fused together to form a new couplet referred to as a *jǐjù*. This “borrowing” of lines is not seen as copying another poet's work; it shows that the modern poet has deep knowledge of the Chinese tradition of poetry and literature.

DIRECTIONS:

1. **Read** each single line of a couplet more than once. **Feel the mood** of the image portrayed.
2. **Create your own second line** by matching EACH underlined word with a **parallel word**. (Natural elements, natural cycles, geographical objects, animals, human relationships, parts of the body, parts of speech, actions, colors, objects or tools and so on)
3. Each of the underlined words will need to be matched with a similar or contrasting word in order to **create a balance or harmony** between the two lines in your poem. (See examples to get you started.)

- A. 1st line: Walk and reach the place where the stream ends
2nd line: Sit to watch the moment when clouds form. By Wang Wei
- B. 1st line: Birds have gone home, the sand holds their tracks
2nd line: A sail has passed, the waves lack any traces. By Chia Tao
- C. 1st line: Vast desert, solitary smoke up straight
2nd line:
- D. 1st line: Scoop water, moon within your hands;
2nd line:

- E. 1st line: White sand retains the color of the moon
2nd line:
- F. 1st line: Double pair of yellow orioles sings in emerald willows
2nd line:
- G. 1st line: A fish gliding on the surface of the water parts the green;
2nd line:
- H. 1st line: When the crane comes, the pine has company
2nd line:
- I. 1st line: I love rearing fish in the pond to learn the secrets of nature;
2nd line:
- J. 1st line: The clouds are without intention; everyday they stretch and roll leisurely
2nd line:
- K. 1st line: Fortune does not come repeatedly—but it does this morning
2nd line:
- L. 1st line: Closing the door you push the moon out;
2nd line:
- M. 1st line: Sometimes two or three drops of rain;
2nd line:

An original couplet:

1st line:

2nd line: