

Literary Analysis

HEROIC COUPLET

A **heroic couplet** is a pair of rhymed lines written in **iambic pentameter**, a metrical pattern of five feet (units), each of which consists of two syllables, the first unstressed and the second stressed. Pope was the master of the heroic couplet, enjoying it for matters both witty and wise.

Directions: On the following lines, record an example of a heroic couplet from the poem. Then answer the questions in the chart.

Is the couplet strictly iambic or are there variations?	
What is the subject of the couplet?	
Is there surprising rhyme?	
Is there humor in the couplet?	