

Mathematics 110 – Calculus of one variable

Trent University 2003-2004

SECOND ANNUAL EQUATION LIMERICK COMPETITION

“Due” on or by the end of the school year . . .

A limerick is a poem with five lines. The first, second, and fifth lines should have nine syllables each and rhyme with each other, and the third and fourth should have six syllables each and rhyme with each other. It is common to mangle spelling, pronunciation, and grammar when composing limericks in English. A well-known example of a limerick, relating to physics, is the following:

There was a young lady named Bright,
Who traveled much faster than light.
She started one day
In the relative way,
And returned on the previous night.

By Hellen Barton Tuttle, or A.H. Reginald Buller, F.R.S., or Anonymous . . .

An obscure subtype of the limerick is the equation limerick, which states an equation. Here are some examples:

$$(12 + 144 + 20 + 3 \cdot \sqrt{4}) / 7 + 5 \cdot 11 = 9^2$$

a dozen, a gross, plus a score
plus three times the square root of four
divided by seven
plus five times eleven
is nine squared (and not a bit more)

Posted to sci.math by Rajeev Krishnamoorthy in 1992.

$$\int_1^{3^{1/3}} t^2 dt \cdot \cos\left(\frac{3\pi}{9}\right) = \log\left(\sqrt[3]{e}\right)$$

The integral tee squared dee tee
From one to the cube root of three
Times the cosine
Of three pi over nine
Is the log of the cube root of e.

Posted to sci.math by Gerald A. Edgar in 1992. (Slightly edited.)

$$\ln(e^4) (\sqrt{1024}) + 6(12) - 8(23) = 16$$

The lon of e to the four
Times the square root of ten twenty-four
Adding six dozen please
Minus eight twenty-three's
Is sixteen, case is closed, shut the door.

This is one of the winning entries from last year's Limerick Competition, by Chris Cole.

1. Write an *original* equation limerick. The equation must be correct!

The most interesting entries will be posted to the MATH 110 web pages and the creators of the winning entries will receive a bonus of up to 1% on their final marks in MATH 110.