A tongue-twister is a rhyme or a sequence of words that is difficult to say because it uses similar or repeated sounds.

How quickly can you say each of these tongue-twisters without making a mistake?

Get your friends to have a go with you to see who can say them the fastest.

Say, did you say?

Say, did you say, or did you not say
What I said you said?
For it is said that you said
That you did not say
What I said you said.
Now if you say that you did not say
What I said you said,
Then what do you say you did say instead
Of what I said you said?

I saw Esau

Who saw Esau?
I saw Esau
With a saw.
I saw Esau
Cutting up a see-saw,
Cutting up a see-saw
With a saw.
I saw Esau’s
Saw cut Esau.
The saw cut Esau
And Esau swore.

Shaun Short’s Short Shorts

Shaun Short bought some shorts.
The shorts were shorter than Shaun Short thought.
Shaun Short’s short shorts were so short,
Shaun Short thought, Shaun you ought
Not to have bought shorts so short.
One of the main reasons tongue-twisters are hard to say is because they contain a lot of alliteration – the use of several words together that all begin with the same letter or sound.

For example:

Round and round the rugged rocks the ragged rascal ran.
Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled pepper.
She sells seashells on the sea-shore.

Write your own tongue twisters

Begin by making a list of words that start with letters which make the same sound e.g. ch-, cr-, st- or tr-. Then fit them together to make a tongue-twister.

It doesn’t matter if your tongue-twister doesn’t make sense. For example, here’s the start of a tongue-twister produce by a group of children: A chocolate chicken chortling cheerfully chomping cheesecake

Your list of words beginning with the same letter

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Your own tongue-twister

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