

Text for Exercises to Warm Up The Speaking Voice

What a to-do to die today

What a to-do to die today at a minute or two to two,
a thing distinctly hard to say but harder still to do.
For they'll beat a tattoo at a quarter to two:
With* a rat-ta tat-tat ta tat-tat ta to-to.
And the dragon will come when he hears the drum
at a minute or two to two today, at a minute or two to
two

To Sit in Solemn Silence

To sit in solemn silence in a dull, dark dock,
In a pestilential prison, with a life-long lock,
Awaiting the sensation of a short, sharp shock,
From a cheap and chippy chopper on a big black block!
To sit in solemn silence in a dull, dark dock,
In a pestilential prison, with a life-long lock,
Awaiting the sensation of a short, sharp shock,
From a cheap and chippy chopper on a big black block!
A dull, dark dock, a life-long lock,
A short, sharp shock, a big black block!
To sit in solemn silence in a pestilential prison,
And awaiting the sensation
From a cheap and chippy chipper on a big black block!

*Sometimes "with" is omitted. These famous tongue twisters have been taught for generations and there are slight variations. Feel free to use whichever versions you have learned for these exercises!

