Hi. I’m Marianne Raynaud. My goal is to help my listeners improve their spoken English. I’ve seen students make great progress by learning poems by heart. I often say “A poem a day keeps the mind at play”. I have written several poems on the uses of “make” and “do” that you will find in my other series called QualityTime-ESL Podcasts or on my web site. This past week I decided to be even more ambitious and write a poem with most of the verb tenses we commonly use in English when we speak. It is a poem with rhymes, and I guarantee that if you learn it by heart you will improve your speaking skills considerably. It is a long poem but by repeating after me during several sessions, I am certain you will manage to learn it. Be sure to stress certain syllables the way I do. English is a stressed language, and you must put the stress on words correctly in order to be properly understood.

Listen and repeat:

A Poem To Learn English

The words to be stressed are in bold.

Who am I, you ask and patiently wait
For me to explain my life and my fate
Well, for you, dear child, I’ll tell you a tale
You’ll forever recall every day without fail

With this story and all of the words that I choose
You’ll learn a language you never will lose
You’ll find out about all my joys and my pain
And my verse will echo in your mind once again
Your English No. 25 A Poem to Learn English (Part 1)

I come from a country where the flowers smell sweet
Where farmers give people fine crops they can eat
Where the sky is blue, the lakes pure and clear
The children play games with nothing to fear

The neighbors they hail you, “How are you today?”
“Are you happy, contented? Are you planning to stay?”
For this is a land where the people are free
The smiles on their faces is a joy to see

But it isn’t so easy to find this place in the sun
For this is where everyone is trying to come
You aren’t alone, and what you have you must share
Your time and your money plus all you can spare

Now listen repeat the rhymes with me.

And finally, I will say the poem once at a normal speed.

That’s the end of this episode. In our next podcast we will continue with this poem. It will be an opportunity for you to listen and repeat poetry with rhymes. If you want additional practice you can try our other series “QualityTime-ESL Podcasts” and “5-Minute TOPs”. For more information go to our website www.qualitytime-esl.com. Thank you all for listening. Bye for now.