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Futurist Poetry

The poet Filippo Tomasso Marinetti in 1909 founded Italian Futurist Movement when he published the Futurist Manifesto in the French newspaper Le Figaro. In 1913 he published 'Words-In-Freedom' which called for a poetic art form that broke the rules of language, writing and typography. This included using mathematical and grammatical symbols in new ways and using onomatopoeia (words formed by the sound of the thing they describe e.g Woof!).

- 1) Find some paper or recycled card and something to draw with.
- 2) Sit and listen to the sounds around you and write down the noises you can hear.

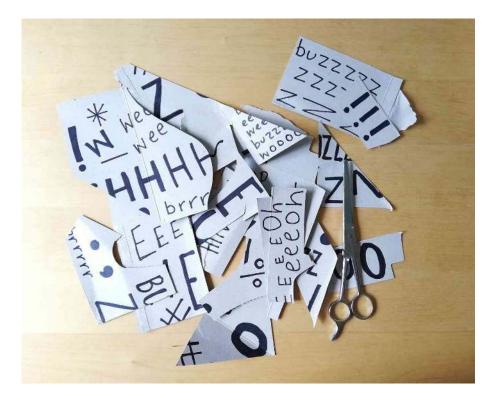


- 3) Rewrite the words in different sizes and styles- big, wobbly, thick and bold etc
- 4) Draw some grammatical or mathematical symbols until you fill your page. If you have a computer or phone keyboard you can copy the symbols from there.



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5) Cut up your words into different shapes. Don't be scared to cut through the words.



6) Play at arranging them in different shapes.

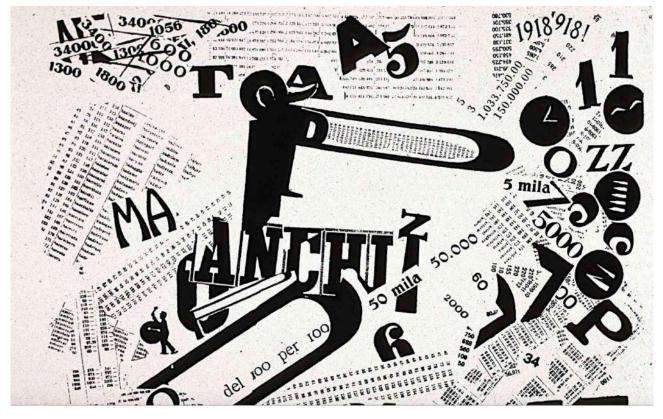


- 7) Read the poems out aloud.
- 8) Try some performance poetry and throw the letters in the air and read them aloud as they have landed. Make big gestures with your body as you read for impact!

Top Tip: Enjoy the shapes and sounds of the letters and words.

Experiment: Listen to the radio or television and write down some of the sounds and words you hear to make different poems.





Filippo Marinetti, Extract from Words in Freedom, 1913

Portrait Poem

Corrado Govoni (1884-1965) was a poet and involved with Italian Futurism in it's early years. This activity explore using words to imaginatively express what someone looks like, their personality and their relationship to their face.

1) Who is your portrait of? Write alternative descriptions for your or someone else's (could be imaginary) mouth, nose, eyes, ears, eyebrows and hair. Think about their shape, colour function and the person's relationship to them.

M	OUTH	

WORD BLOWER DROOL MACHINE CHOMPER MUNCHING MACHINE SCHMOOCHER NOSE

SNOT BLOWER

SNIFFER

SMELL CATCHER

TWO HOLE TRIANGLE

EYES

WET BLINKERS SEEING SPHERES BLUE RINGS BLACK HOLES

EARS

FLESH MAZE SOUND TUNNELS HAIRY CHAMBERS LISTENING INSTRUMENT

HAIR

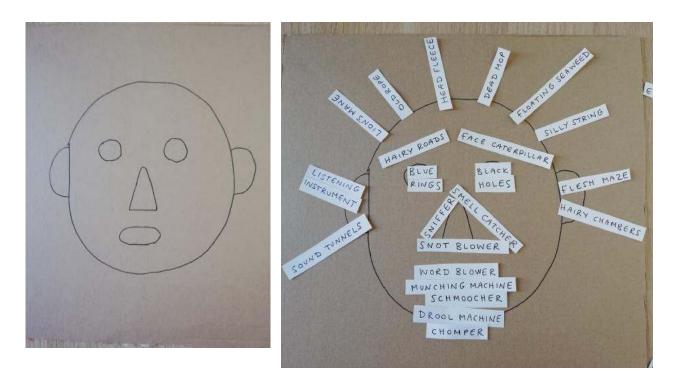
DEAD MOP FLOATING SEAWEED OLD ROPE SILLY STRING HEAD FLEECE LION'S MANE <u>EYEBROWS</u> FACE CATERPILLAR HAIRY ROADS SWEAT BARRIERS EXPRESS HAIRS



2) Cut out the words and arrange them in piles of the parts of the face.

3) Draw a simple face onto recycled cardboard or paper as your guide.

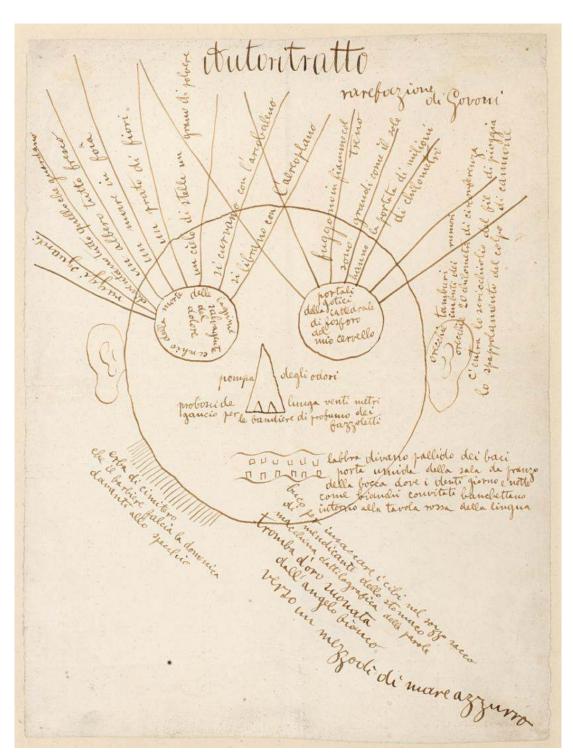
4) Arrange your words to the area of the face they describe. You can cut up the words and make them into shapes to make different expressions.



5) Add more details if you like. Maybe a moustache, glasses, scars, spots!?

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of modern italian art



Corroda Govoni, Self-Portrait, 1915