CONSONANCE
When words share
the same consonant sound, like
*humming, slimmer, emu,* and *emit,*
that is called consonance.
Consonance lets poets pour music
into lines of poetry, but to do it in
an almost secret way. Both rhyme
and alliteration are more
noticeable than consonance.
Look at the way T.S. Eliot
introduced a kind of crunchy
sound track into this passage of “Preludes,”
by using consonance on the *k* sound:

The winter evening settles down
With smell of steaks in passageways.
Six o’clock.
The burnt-out ends of smoky days.

The *consonance* does not have to use
the letter *k* every time; it is the sound, not the letter.
Here we see the *k* sound as part of an *x,*
and as a *c,* and as a *ck,* as well as *k."
The consonance in this poem is atmospheric.
Did you notice the alliteration of *settles, smell, steaks, six* and *smoky,*
or the assonance in *steaks* and *passageways?*