

The Language of SHAKESPEARE I

Thou Used when **YOU** is the **SUBJECT** of the sentence

You are a good friend =
THOU art a good friend

Thee Used when **YOU** is the **OBJECT** of the sentence

I will give you =
I wilt give **THEE**

Thy Used for the **POSSESSIVE** form of you. Use before a word that starts with a **CONSONANT**.

Your father =
THY father

Thine Used for the **POSSESSIVE** form of you. Use before a word that starts with a **VOWEL**.

Your apple =
THINE apple

Ye Plural form of **YOU**, used for addressing a group.

2ND PERSON SINGULAR VERB ADDS **-EST**,
(*YOU GIVE IS THOU GIVEST*)

3RD PERSON SINGULAR VERB ADDS **-ETH**
(*SHE GIVES IS SHE GIVETH*)

Other oft used



Words
ARE = ART
Thou art a fiend.

WAST = WERE
Thou wast a fiend.

HAVE = HAST
Thou hast a pleasant face.

HAVE = HATH
He hath a pleasant face.

HAD = HADST
She hadst little to say.

DO = DOST
Why dost you frown?

DOES = DOTH
He doth frown.

DID = DIDST
Why didst thou frown?

CAN = CANST
Canst thou come?

SHALL = SHALT
Thou shalt come.

SHOULD = SHOULDST
Thou shouldst come.

WILL = WILT
Wilt thou come?

WHY = WHEREFORE
Wherefore didst thou come?

FROM
WHERE = WHENCE
Whence did thou come?

The Language of SHAKESPEARE I

Other oft used

Words

ADIEU=FAREWELL

AYE=YES

ANON=SOON

COUNSEL=ADVICE

ERE=BEFORE

FAIN=GLADLY

HARK=LISTEN!

HENCE=AWAY

HIE=GO!

HITHER=HERE

MARK=PAY ATTENTION

MARRY=INDEED

NOUGHT=NOTHING

OFT=OFTEN

PERCHANCE=MAYBE

PRITHEE=PLEASE

SAUCY=SASSY

SIRRAH=MALE

OF
INFERIOR
RANK

2ND PERSON SINGULAR VERB ADDS *-EST*,
(*YOU GIVE IS THOU GIVEST*)

3RD PERSON SINGULAR VERB ADDS *-ETH*
(*SHE GIVES IS SHE GIVETH*)

Contractions: words with letters omitted, replaced by an apostrophe. Typical Shakespearean contractions:

DAR'ST (DARE)

E'EN (EVEN)

E'ER (EVER)

'ERE (BEFORE)

NE'ER (NEVER)

O' (OF)

O'ER (OVER)

SHAM'ST (SHAME)

'TIS (IT IS)

T' (TO)

'T WAS (IT WAS)

'T WERE (IT WERE)

'T (IT)

WHE'ER (WHENEVER)

WI' (WITH)



The Language of SHAKESPEARE I

When we read, we read a sentence at a time. It's no different with verse, regardless of where the line ends. Read each sentence in the following passages. Pause at the commas. Stop at each period, colon, semi-colon, dash and question mark.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

~from *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost

But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,
Who is already sick and pale with grief,
That thou, her maid, art far more fair than she.

~from *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare

But now I am mostly at the window
watching the late afternoon light.
Back then it never fell so solemnly
against the side of my tree house,
and my bicycle never leaned against the garage
as it does today,
all the dark blue speed drained out of it.

~from *On Turning Ten* by Billy Collins

To be, or not to be? That is the question—
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And, by opposing, end them?

~from *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare