

Warmer – some famous quotes

a. Look at these famous quotes from Shakespeare. What are the modern-day equivalents of the underlined words?

1. 'The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.' **As You Like It**
2. 'This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.' **Hamlet**
3. 'Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice.' **Hamlet**
4. 'Many a true word hath been spoken in jest*.' **King Lear**
*as a joke

b. Do you agree with what is said in the quotes? Discuss with a partner.

Task 1 – reading about Shakespeare's grammar

Read the following short text about the grammar that Shakespeare used, and discuss the questions with a partner.

Changes in English grammar since Shakespeare's times

In order to read and understand Shakespeare, it is important to know that certain aspects of English grammar have changed since Shakespeare's time. Probably the most important change is that English no longer has two 'you' forms. In Shakespeare's time, 'you' was used as a more polite form, and 'thou' as a more familiar form. 'You' was also used for addressing more than one person and 'thou' to address one person.

'Thou' also had different verb conjugations to 'you', so Shakespeare would have said 'you are', but 'thou art', 'you have' but 'thou hast'.

The third person (he, she, it) also had different verb conjugations, with, for example, 'hath', 'doth' and 'seeth' instead of the modern 'has', 'does' and 'sees'.

1. What two differences were there between 'thou' and 'you'?
2. Give an example of a Shakespearean verb ending for 'thou' and for 'he'.
3. Does your language (or any other language you know about) have two 'you' forms like Shakespearean English?

Task 2 – Shakespeare's grammar

Complete the Shakespearean grammar tables with the underlined words from the Warmer and the text in Task 1.

a. Pronouns

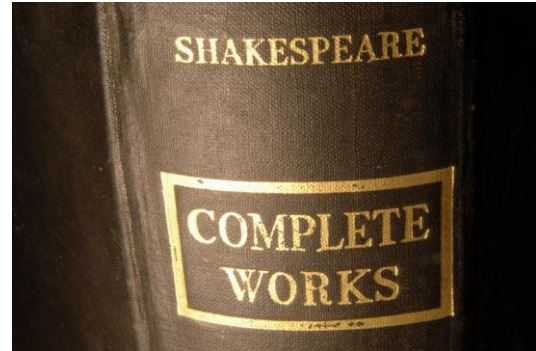
	Subject pronoun	Object pronoun	Possessive determiner	Reflexive pronoun
Singular / familiar	1 _____	thee	2 _____ thine	thyself
Plural / polite	you	ye	your	yourself

b. Verbs

	I	thou	he / she / it	we / you / they
to be				
(present)	am	art	is	are
(past)	was	wert	was	were
to have				
(present)	have	3 _____	hath	have
(past)	had	hadst	had	had
to do				
(present)	do	dost	4 _____	do
(past)	did	didst	did	did
can				
(present)	can	5 _____	can	can
(past)	could	couldst	could	could

Task 3 – Shakespearean vocabulary

Work in pairs to match the Shakespearean vocabulary (1-15) with the modern day equivalents (a-o).



Shakespearean

1. Fain
2. Farewell
3. Nay
4. Oft
5. Woo
6. Lest
7. Wherefore
8. Methinks
9. Pronounce
10. Ay
11. Swear
12. Twas
13. Perjury
14. Else
15. Prithee

Modern day

- a. Say
- b. Yes
- c. Otherwise
- d. Promise
- e. Telling a lie
- f. For fear that, in case
- g. Flirt or romance
- h. Why
- i. Goodbye
- j. Often
- k. I think
- l. Willingly
- m. No
- n. Please
- o. It was