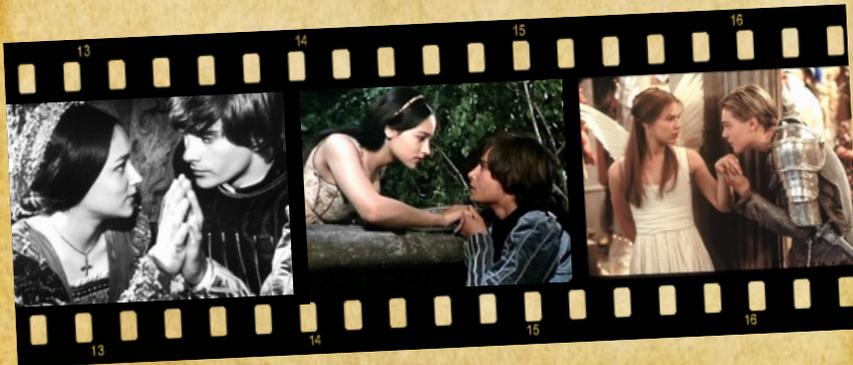


Romeo: I dream'd a dream to-night.  
 Mercutio: And so did I.  
 Romeo: Well, what was yours?  
 Mercutio: That dreamers often lie.

My bounty is as boundless as the sea,  
 My love as deep; the more I give to thee,  
 The more I have, for both are infinite.  
 (Juliet)



## 400 years since the death of William Shakespeare

Considered the greatest English-speaking writer in history and known as England's national poet, William Shakespeare (1564-1616) has had more theatrical works performed than any other playwright

**bard:** poet (archaic)  
**handful:** small number  
**hastily:** fast, in a hurry  
**twins:** two siblings (brothers/sisters) born on the same day  
**encompass:** to contain, include, surround  
**playwright:** someone who writes plays (for the theatre)  
**bulk:** majority, largest part  
**bear:** to carry, show  
**ward off:** to scare someone (so that they go) away  
**curse:** an expression to give another person bad luck  
**keen:** enthusiastic

"The Bard of Avon", as he was known, wrote at least 37 plays and a collection of sonnets, established the legendary Globe theatre and helped transform the English language.

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, a bustling market town 100 miles northwest of London, and baptized there on 26th April, 1564. His birthday is traditionally celebrated on 23rd April, which was the date of his death in 1616 and is the feast day of St. George, the patron saint of England.

Sources from William Shakespeare's lifetime spell his last name in more than 80 different ways, ranging from "Shappere" to "Shaxberd." In the **handful** of signatures that have survived, he himself never spelled his name as we do now, but in fact used variations such as "Willm Shaksper" and "William Shakspeare" instead.

At 18, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway (1556-1616), a woman eight years his senior, in a ceremony thought to have been **hastily** arranged due to

her pregnancy. A daughter, Susanna, was born less than seven months later in May 1583. **Twins** Hamnet and Judith followed in February 1585. Susanna and Judith would live to old age, while Hamnet, Shakespeare's only son, died at 11. As for William and Anne, it is believed that the couple lived apart for most of the year while Will pursued his writing and theatre career in London. It was not until the end of his life that Shakespeare moved back in with Anne in their Stratford home.

Shakespeare's first plays, believed to have been written before or around 1592, **encompass** tragedy, comedy and history. Shakespeare was likely affiliated with several different theatre companies when these early works debuted on the London stage. In 1594 he began writing and acting for a troupe known as the Lord Chamberlain's Men, ultimately becoming its house **playwright** and partnering with other members to establish the legendary Globe theatre in 1599.

Shakespeare died aged 52 of unknown causes on 23rd April, 1616, leaving the **bulk** of his estate to his daughter Susanna. Anne Hathaway, who outlived her husband by seven years, famously received his "second-best bed." The slabstone over Shakespeare's tomb, located inside a Stratford church, **bears** an epitaph—written, some say, by the bard himself—**warding off** grave robbers with a **curse**: "Blessed be the man that spares these stones, / And cursed be he that moves my bones." His remains have yet to be disturbed, despite requests by archaeologists **keen** to reveal what killed him.

This story was adapted from:  
<http://www.history.com/topics/british-history/william-shakespeare>

## Weekly English Practice



14th April 2016

English  
 Coaching  
 Projects S.Coop.

[weeklyenglishpractice.wordpress.com](http://weeklyenglishpractice.wordpress.com)

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## Something to chat about

- Have you read anything by Shakespeare?
- Why do you think people study him at school?
- How do you think he contributed to English?
- How do you think Shakespeare's life was different from yours or mine? Why?
- Have you ever visited the Globe theatre?
- Can you tell the story of Romeo and Juliet?
- What do you think made his plays so popular?
- Who is considered the greatest Spanish-speaking writer?
- How important is literature to you?

# “iLook, iThink, iSpeak” Express yourself better!



Something for Word Geeks!

**\*\*Old English Alert!!\*\***

## 12 Words we Owe to Shakespeare

Shakespeare’s scripts contain over 2,200 never-before-seen words—a diverse collection of loan-words from foreign languages, compound words from existing English terms, nouns turned into verbs, and creatively applied prefixes—many of which have entered into everyday language.

Here are just 12 examples of words we can thank Shakespeare for. What do you think of when you read each of these words? Draw a picture to represent each one.

Click on a word to see the meaning.

Addiction			Eyeball
Assassination			Fashionable
Belongings			Inaudible
Cold-blooded			Manager
Dishearten			Swagger
Eventful			Uncomfortable



## Here are the rules for writing a sonnet:

- It must consist of 14 lines.
- It must be written in iambic pentameter: (duh-DUH-duh-DUH-duh-DUH-duh-DUH-duh-DUH)
- It must be written in one of various standard rhyme schemes.

If you're writing the most familiar kind of sonnet, the Shakespearean, the rhyme scheme is this:

Every A rhymes with every A, every B rhymes with every B, and so forth.

You'll notice this type of sonnet consists of three quatrains (that is, four consecutive lines of verse that make up a stanza or division of lines in a poem) and one couplet (two consecutive rhyming lines of verse).

Read more about sonnets [here](#).

## How to write a sonnet

(in iambic pentameter, just like Shakespeare did!!)

‘Shakespeare's Sonnets’ is the title of a collection of 154 sonnets accredited to William Shakespeare which cover themes such as the passage of time, love, beauty and mortality. The first 126 sonnets are addressed to a young man; the last 28 to a woman. Sonnet n°18 is perhaps the most famous of them. Here you can read and listen to it:

### Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

**\*\*Old English Alert!!\*\***  
**\*\*Ask ECP coach for help\*\***

- A Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? [Listen](#)
- B Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
- A Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
- B And summer's lease hath all too short a date.
- C Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
- D And often is his gold complexion dimmed;
- C And every fair from fair sometime declines,
- D By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;
- E But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
- F Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest,
- E Nor shall death brag thou wanderest in his shade,
- F When in eternal lines to time thou growest.
- G So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
- G So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.