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What words did shakespeare invent that we use today

Want to know all about the words Shakespeare invented? We've got you covered. In all of his works – the plays, the sonnets and the narrative poems – Shakespeare uses 17,677 different words. How Many Words Did Shakespeare Invent? Across all of his written works, it's estimated that words invented by Shakespeare number as many as 1,700. We say these are words invented by Shakespeare , though in reality many of these 1,700 words would likely have been in common use during the Elizabethan and Jacobean era, just not written down prior to Shakespeare using them in his plays, sonnets and poems. In these cases Shakespeare would have been the first known person to document these words in writing. Historian Jonathan Hope also points out that Victorian scholars who read texts for the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary read Shakespeare's texts more thoroughly than most, and cited him more often, meaning Shakespeare is often credited with the first use of words which can be found in other writers. Examples Of Commonly Used Words Shakespeare Created It is Shakespeare who is credited with creating the below list of words that we still use in our daily speech - some of them frequently. What words did Shakespeare invent? Plenty! Many of which you use every day without even realising. Languages fascinate me, especially etymology. In his 20 year career, Shakespeare wrote close to 1 million words, 17,677 different words, and 1,705 new words. Many of which we still use today. Leading on from my previous post on Italian expressions, I started thinking about the influence writers have on the development of languages. Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon Take Dante Alighieri for example. Born in Florence, Italy around 1265 Dante wrote The Divine Comedy (La Divina Commedia) which is widely considered to be the greatest literary work composed in Italian and a masterpiece of world literature. Why was Dante so special you ask? Well, the result of his work basically established the national language of Italy, Italiano! Impressive, right? Back in the Middle Ages, the majority of poetry was inaccessible to the lower classes as it was written in Latin and therefore only affluent and educated people could understand it. Dante defended the everyday use of vernacular and used it in his literature. He even wrote the Divine Comedy using his Tuscan dialect. For the times, this approach was highly unorthodox, yet it set the wheels in motion for other writers to follow suit. Even William Shakespeare was inspired by Dante's depiction of Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven. While you may not have heard of Dante Alighieri, Shakespeare is definitely a household name. Either you studied him in high school and learned a verse from one of his plays, or came across his work while study English as a foreign language. Shakespeare's Influence Shakespeare is also known as The Bard. A 'bard' was a travelling poet in medieval times who made a living performing and telling stories. Born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, Shakespeare had a significant impact on the English language. His career lasted only 20 years, yet he wrote 37 plays and 154 sonnets. Part of Shakespeare's genius was the fact that his work appealed to everyone, ranging from kings to peasants. He helped shape modern English in a time where grammar, spelling and pronunciation were less standardised than they are now. Today, more than 400 years later his plays are still being read and performed all over the world. Shakespeare's classroom in Stratford-upon-Avon What you may not know is that many phrases, expressions, and proverbs that we use today either originated with or were popularised by their use in Shakespeare's work. While it's unclear whether these phrases were already in existence during Shakespeare's time or if he invented them, his plays often provide us with the earliest use of many of them. In fact, Bernard Levin even made up a lovely poem about it. It goes like this: If you cannot understand my argument, and declare "It's Greek to me", you are quoting Shakespeare; if you claim to be more sinned against than sinning, you are quoting Shakespeare; if you recall your salad days, you are quoting Shakespeare; if you act more in sorrow than in anger; if your wish is farther to the thought; if your lost property has vanished into thin air, you are quoting Shakespeare; if you have ever refused to budge an inch or suffered from green-eyed jealousy, if you have played fast and loose, if you have been tongue-tied, a tower of strength, hoodwinked or in a pickle, if you have knitted your brows, made a virtue of necessity, insisted on fair play, slept not one wink, stood on ceremony, danced attendance on your lord and master, laughed yourself into stitches, had short shrift, cold comfort or too much of a good thing, if you have seen better days or lived in a fool's paradise -why, be that as it may, the more fool you , for it is a foregone conclusion that you are, as good luck would have it, quoting Shakespeare; if you think it is early days and clear out bag and baggage, if you think it is high time and that that is the long and short of it, if you believe that the game is up and that truth will out even if it involves your own flesh and blood, if you lie low till the crack of doom because you suspect foul play, if you have your teeth set on edge at one fell swoop - without rhyme or reason, then - to give the devil his due - if the truth were known (for surely you have a tongue in your head) you are quoting Shakespeare; even if you bid me good riddance and send me packing, if you wish I was dead as a door-nail, if you think I am an eyesore, a laughing stock, the devil incarnate, a stony-hearted villain, bloody-minded or a blinking idiot, then - by Jove! O Lord! Tut tut! For goodness' sake! What the dickens! But me no buts! - it is all one to me, for you are quoting Shakespeare. Next time you use these common expressions, spare a thought for its originator. Without further ado, here are 25 more words and expressions Shakespeare invented where they appeared in his works. 1. All that glitters is not gold From "The Merchant of Venice" 2. Bated breath From "The Merchant of Venice" 3. Be-all and the end-all From "Macbeth" 4. Break the ice From "The Taming of the Shrew" 5. Come what come may ("Come what may") From "Macbeth" 6. Faint-hearted From "I Henry VI" 7. Forever and a day From "As You Like It" 8. For goodness' sake From "Henry VIII" 9. In a pickle From "The Tempest" 10. In my heart of hearts From "Hamlet" 11. Knock knock! Who's there? From "Macbeth" 12. In my mind's eye From "Hamlet" 13. Mum's the word From "Henry VI, Part II" 14. The world's mine oyster From "The Merry Wives of Windsor" 15. In stitches From "Twelfth Night" Statue of Shakespeare in Leicester Square, London 16. Own flesh and blood From "Hamlet" 17. Laughing stock From "The Merry Wives of Windsor" 18. Love is blind From "Merchant of Venice" 19. Naked truth From "Love's Labours Lost" 20. Neither rhyme nor reason From "As You Like It" 21. Sea change From "The Tempest" 22. Send packing From "I Henry IV" 23. Too much of a good thing From "As You Like It" 24. Wear my heart upon my sleeve From "Othello" 25. Wild-geese chase From "Romeo and Juliet" If you liked this, don't miss these! Like it? Pin it for later! Over to you! Which expression do you use the most? What others do you know? Let me know using the comments section below or join me on social media to start a conversation. Thanks for reading and I hope you enjoyed this post. Like what you see? Subscribe using the form below to have all of my posts delivered directly to your email. No single writer has done more to change and shape the English language than Shakespeare. As a mark of his lasting legacy and talent as a playwright, many of the words and phrases he came up with are still in common use today.Why have Shakespeare's words and phrases become such an integral part of the English language? For a start, his plays have been incredibly popular, being taught to schoolchildren for decades, being read for centuries, his plays being performed in theatres around the world and turned into successful movies too. So a lot of people have been exposed to Shakespeare's works.Here are some examples of just a few of his brilliant turns of phrase that you can use in your own English conversations and writing today.In a pickleThis phrase means in a difficult position. For example, if you're out on a date with a guy - and then your boyfriend walks in to the same bar... Originally, pickle was a spicy sauce that was served with meat in Shakespeare's day, and today it still also describes vegetables or meat that is preserved in vinegar or brine. While there are references to pickles in the late 16th century, Shakespeare was one of the first to use in a pickle in this context."I have been in such a pickle since I saw you last." - The TempestGreen-eyed monster"This is a well-known phrase in English, meaning jealousy. Jealousy is a very powerful emotion, powerful enough to drive some people to commit murder, so it's easy to see why Shakespeare would describe this emotion as a monster. Why green? Green is a colour associated with sickness, possibly because people's skin sometimes takes on a slightly yellow/green tinge when they are seriously ill. Green is also the colour of many unripe foods that cause stomach pains, and jealousy can make you feel physically ill or as if you are in pain."It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on." - OthelloLove is blindHere's a phrase that Shakespeare didn't actually invent. It was another great English writer, Chaucer, who first used this phrase in 1405. But Shakespeare used it in lots of his plays, and helped to make it part of our everyday language today. Have you ever had a friend who fell in love with someone you didn't like? You just couldn't understand what they saw in the person they claimed to love? Well, that's because love is blind - those in love are willing and able to overlook many faults in the ones they love."I am much ashamed of my exchange, but love is blind and lovers cannot see, the pretty follies that themselves commit." - The Merchant of VeniceBedazzledThis word didn't exist before Shakespeare used it to describe a particular gleam of sunlight. It's since been used to describe glitter on fashionable clothing, anything that is eye-catching and it's the name of a famous movie or two."Pardon, old father, my mistaking eyes, that have been so bedazzled with the sun that everything I look on seemeth green." - The Taming of the ShrewCold-bloodedBefore Shakespeare used this phrase metaphorically, to describe a person, it had been used only to describe reptiles, which are cold-blooded. Here Shakespeare creates a new way to describe someone who is emotionally cold. Since he first used it in his 17th century play it has become a common term to describe murderers, vampires, serial killers - any unfeeling person or creature."Thou cold-blooded slave, hast thou not spoke like thunder on my side, been sworn my soldier, bidding me depend upon thy stars, thy fortune and thy strength, and dost thou now fall over to my foes?" - King JohnHere are a few more Shakespearean words for you to listen out for in everyday English today, and the plays you'll find them in too:Rant - HamletAssassination - MacbethFashionable - Troilus and CressidaObscene - Love's Labour's LostAddiction - OthelloSwagger - Henry VZany - Love's Labour's LostDo you have any favourite words and phrases you've found in Shakespeare's plays? Share them with us in the comments.

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