

ELIZABETHAN LANGUAGE TERMS

CONTEMPORARY → ELIZABETHAN



Listed below are some common Elizabethan terms you will come across while reading Shakespeare. Use them to help you become familiar with the language, as a reference while reading, and as a resource for writing in your journal.

Contemporary	Elizabethan
Advice	Counsel
Away	Aroint
Beg	Pray
Boy (used to address a male of inferior rank)	Sirrah
By the Virgin Mary (a mild expletive meaning "indeed")	Marry
Chase (romance, as in boy chases girl)	Woo
Come here	Come hither
Curse	Plague
Days	-morrow (to the morrow)
Depressed	Heavy
Desire	Will
Does	Doth
Enemy	Foe
Even; evening	E'en
Farewell	Adieu
Go	Hie
Goodbye	Fare thee well; God save thee; I shall see thee anon
Hello	Good day; Good morrow; Well met
Here	Hither
I think	Methinks
If	An
Ignore that	Shun that
Informed	Privy
Kill	Dispatch
Listen	Hark; Hark now
Maybe	Perchance

Contemporary	Elizabethan
Misery	Woe
Never	Ne'r
News	Tidings
No	Nay
Nothing	Nought
Often	Oft
Order	Decree
Pay attention to	Mark
Plan	Resolve
Provided	Wrought
Sad	Heavy
Soon	Anon
Speaks	Discourses
Thank you	Grammercy
There	Thither
To which	Whereto
Truly	Verily
Wait a minute	Soft
Why	Wherefore
Wish	Would
With	Withal
Yes	Aye
You	Thee; Thou
You are	Thou art
You should	Thou should'st
You would	Thou would'st
Your	Thy

To view more Elizabethan terms visit [Haney's Pub: Elizabethan Language Lexicon](http://members.cox.net/hapnueby/lexicon.html) (<http://members.cox.net/hapnueby/lexicon.html>).



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Elizabethan	Contemporary
Adieu	Farewell
An	If
Anon	Soon
Aroint	Away
Aye	Yes
Come hither	Come here
Counsel	Advice
Decree	Order
Discourses	Speaks
Dispatch	Kill
Doth	Does
E'en	Even; evening
Fare thee well	Goodbye
Foe	Enemy
God save thee	Goodbye
Good day; Good morrow	Hello
Grammercy	Thank you
Hark; Hark now	Listen
Heavy	Sad; Depressed
Hie	Go
Hither	Here
I shall see thee anon	Goodbye
Mark	Pay attention to
Marry	By the Virgin Mary (a mild expletive meaning "indeed")
Methinks	I think
-morrow (to the morrow)	Days
Nay	No
Ne'r	Never
Nought	Nothing
Oft	Often

Elizabethan	Contemporary
Perchance	Maybe
Plague	Curse
Pray	Beg
Privy	Informed
Resolve	Plan
Shun that	Ignore that
Sirrah	Boy (used to address a male of inferior rank)
Soft	Wait a minute
Thee	You
Thither	There
Thou	You
Thou art	You are
Thou should'st	You should
Thou would'st	You would
Thy	Your
Tidings	News
Verily	Truly
Well met	Hello
Wherefore	Why
Whereto	To which
Will	Desire
Withal	With
Woe	Misery
Woo	Chase (romance, as in boy chases girl)
Would	Wish
Wrought	Provided

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