TIPS HOW TO SPEAK LIKE SHAKESPEARE

These days everyone tries to stand out from the crowd: some people cut and colour their hair in unusual ways or choose extraordinary clothes, others use various slang phrases. Shakespeare can help in making your speech plummy gorgeous.

Shakespearean English seems very strange and hard to understand. However, it is still English which sounds remarkably intelligent. Thus, you may wish to learn how to speak like Shakespeare. You’ll see that this is really easy!

First of all, try to read a Shakespearean play in the original and start with comedies. A Midsummer Night's Dream and Twelfth Night are a good choice. This will give you an idea of how the language is used and also increase your vocabulary with older forms and uses of words.

You should have a favorite Shakespearean quote and use it. A lot of people like to say: "Pound of flesh" – a payment or punishment that involves suffering; "Salad days" – days of carefree innocence and pleasure of our youth; "All's well that ends well"; "I am one who loved not wisely but too well"; "It's (all) Greek to me" – when you don’t understand something [2].

Then work on the greetings. In modern times, we are satisfied with "Hello" or "How are you". To make this sound more Shakespearean, a simple form may be "Good greetings, my lord/lady" or, if you truly wish to know how the other is doing, try "How now, [Name]?". Feel free to add clauses along the form of "and may you be well". You can respond with "Likewise to you", remembering to refer to "my lord" or "my lady". A more medieval and flowery response could be "All of God's greetings upon you".

Work on your farewells. Farewells can be much improved from modern "Bye!". A very simple, no-thinking-required approach might be "Fare thee well", but this can be improved further by considering how your conversation ended. Did you say goodbye to someone for a long time? "Fare thee well in thy travels, and may by fate we meet again". Similarly modify your goodbyes to fit the situation.

Refine your cursing. Replace "damned" with "accursed". Other adjectives can be replaced with "traitorous" (faithless), "lecherous" (vulgar)". You can also refer to those of humble origin or anyone acting servant-like as "knavish" (fraud). These words make your speech more flowery, which is the main effect. Try calling your tormenters "jackanapes" or "canker-blossoms" or "poisonous bunch-back’d toads" [1].
The easiest tip is to shorten "it" to just "t". For example, "it was" becomes "twas", "do it" becomes "dot". Examples: "Twas good!", "You should try to do’t again."

**Fix your verbs**: add "-st" to singular second-person verbs and "-th"/"-eth" to singular third-person verbs. For example, "How dost thou" and "How doth he".

**Do you remember the "shall" form?** It can be used to express obligation, and also in the first person. Remember that when used with "thee" or "thou", "will" becomes "wilt" and "shall" "shalt".

We know that Shakespearean variant for "you" is "thou". You can master forms of "thou": use "thy" for possessive, and "thee" for an object. Examples: "Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper", "Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?", "Oh, thou didst then ne'er love so heartily", "I kissed thee before I killed thee."

Interesting, that as a reflection of the higher status of males in the male/female context a husband might address his wife as "thou", and she might reply respectfully with "you".

Here are some examples of how can you change usual phrases:
- You are a good dancer" – "Thee art a valorous dancer";
- It was funny"– "Twas comical";
- "I hate you!" – "A pox on you!".

And some warnings to finish with. **Speaking like Shakespeare will require frequent references to God.** You don't have to believe in the Christian God, or in any, to use such figures of speech. When wooing ladies: try comparing her to a summer’s day. If that fails, say "Get thee to a nunnery!" – as Hamlet said to Ophelia. When wooing boys: try dressing up like a man. If that fails, throw him in the tower, banish his friends and claim the thrown, as it was in "Twelfth Night, or What You Will" [3].

When people say they want to talk like Shakespeare, they don't mean they want to talk like people did almost 500 years ago. What they really want to do is have fun by speaking like their favorite characters in William Shakespeare's plays.

**REFERENCES**