

## Translating Shakespeare into Modern English

Here are some quotations from William Shakespeare's plays, written in Early Modern English, the kind of English that was spoken at the time. Because Shakespeare was also writing in verse – like poetry but usually without rhymes – the normal word order in the sentence is also changed.

On the lines below each quotation, translate each sentence into Modern English, as we might speak it today.

For example:

"To thine own self be true." (Hamlet, Act 1 Scene 3)

*"Be true to yourself."*

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1) *"What fools these mortals be!"* (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 3 Scene 2)

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2) *"Give me thy hand, 'tis late; farewell, good night."* (Romeo and Juliet, Act 3 Scene 3)

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3) *"Have more than thou showest; speak less than thou knowest; lend less than thou owest."* (King Lear, Act 1 Scene 4)

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4) *"The course of true love never did run smooth."* (A Midsummer Night's Dream Act 1 Scene 1)

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5) *"There's daggers in men's smiles."* (Macbeth, Act 2 Scene 3)

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