

## **Shakespeare's Words and Phrases**

In all of his work - the plays, the sonnets and the narrative poems - Shakespeare uses 17,677 words: Of those, 1,700 were first used by Shakespeare. Writers often invent words, either by creating new forms of existing words or coining new words outright, because they are unable to find the exact word they require in the existing language. Shakespeare is the foremost of those. He was by far the most important individual influence on the development of the modern English that we speak today.

Look at this short list of words that we use in our daily speech and ask yourself if you could pass through a day without needing to use at least ten of them. There are many more and you use them without knowing that they were given to you by England's national writer.

**accommodation**

**aerial**

**amazement**

**apostrophe**

**assassination**

**auspicious**

**baseless**

**bloody**

**bump**

**castigate**

**changeful**

**clangor**

**control (noun)**

**countless**

**courtship**

**critic**

**critical**

**dexterously**

**dishearten**

**dislocate**

**dwindle**

**eventful**

**exposure**

**fitful**

**frugal**

**generous**

**gloomy**

**gnarled**

**hurry**

**impartial**

**inauspicious**

**indistinguishable**

**invulnerable**

**lapse**

**laughable**

**lonely**

**majestic**

**misplaced**

**monumental**

**multitudinous**

**obscene**

**palmy**

**perusal**

**pious**

**premeditated**

**radiance**

**reliance**

**road**

**sanctimonious**

**seamy**

**sportive**

**submerge**

**suspicious**

As if the above words were not enough, Shakespeare also put common words together to make up new phrases:

**barefaced**

**fancy-free**

**catch a cold**

**disgraceful conduct**

**elbowroom**

**fair play**

**green eyed monster**

**heartsick**

**hot-blooded**

**housekeeping**

**lackluster**

**leapfrog**

**long-haired**

**pitched battle**

**clothes make the man**

**method in his madness**

**to thine own self be true**

**towering passion**

**ministering angel**

**dog will have his day**

**frailty, thy name is woman**

**neither a borrower nor a lender be**

**brevity is the soul of wit**

**mind's eye**

**primrose path**

**flaming youth**

**it smells to heaven**

**the lady doth protest too much**

**witching time of the night**

**it's Greek to me**

**live long day**

**breathe one's last**

**heart of gold**

**give the devil his due**

**too much of a good thing**

**naked truth**

**foregone conclusion**

**break the ice**

**strange bedfellows**

**wear one's heart on one's sleeve**

**all that glitters isn't gold**

**eat out of house and home**

**be all and end all**

**more sinned against than sinning**

**one fell swoop**

**the milk of human kindness**

**the course of true love never did run smooth**