

Hi all,

Here is a little guide I put together to help make sure we really master the language.

Words/phrases are listed by scene in order of appearance in the script in this document, and there is a spreadsheet that has it all organized alphabetically. This includes IPA pronunciation, a Tony Harkin “sound-it-out” style of pronunciation, and definition/background. If there are words/phrases you are uncertain of that I did not include, please reach out and we can figure it out!

Tony

### **Common Shakespearian Words/Phrases**

**Methinks** (/mɛθɪŋk/, me-thinks): Archaic verb effectively saying “it seems to me/what I thought”

**Hath** (/hæθ/, haTH): Archaic third person singular of ‘have.’ Modern equivalent would be “has”

**Aught** (/ɑt/, ought): anything

**Thou** (/ðəʊ/, th-ow): archaic **subject** informal singular of “you.” Note: Shakespeare does use both “thou” and “you” in a variety of ways, often denoting class. “You” is often used for an inferior talking to a superior, and vice versa.

**Doth** (/dʌθ/, duth): 3rd person singular, present tense of ‘do.’ Modern equivalent would be ‘does.’ Please pronounce this one right or Pam said she’ll have to put a sticky note onto her forehead and we really don’t want that.

**Thee** (/ðiː/, th-ee): object informal singular of ‘you.’

**Forth** (/fɔːrθ/, for-th): (from a place) out or away, or (from a point in time) forward

**O'er** (/ɒr/, o-er): variant prepositional form of 'over.'

**Thither** (/ˈθɪðə/, th-ih-ther): to or toward that place.

**Anon** (/əˈnɒn/, uh-non): in a short time, very soon

### Act I, Scene 1

**Nuptial** (/ˈnʌp.ʃəl/, nup-shul): Of or pertaining to wedding and marriage.

**vexation** (/vɛkˈseɪʃən/, vex-a-shun): either the state or the act of being frustrated or irritated.

**Entreat** (/ɛnˈtɹiːt/, en-tree-t): beseech, beg, ask earnestly

**Betwixt** (/bɪˈtwɪkst/, be-twih-xt): between

**Dowager** (/ˈdaʊədʒə/, d-ow-ah-ger): typically a widowed woman who owns property, occasionally used to refer to any elderly woman of means and class

**League** (/liːg/, lee-guh): a unit of distance, approximately 3 miles. Initially was defined as “the distance a man can walk in one hour.” Obviously, that version is not a great metric.

**Diana's altar**: the consecration table of Roman goddess Diana, goddess of the hunt, moon, and virginal women. The Greek equivalent is Artemis.

**Cupid's bow**: Cupid is the Roman god of erotic love, and his main weapon was the bow. It was said that one struck by an arrow from the bow would be filled with desire.

**Fair** (/fɛə/): beauty

**Whither** (/ˈwɪðə/, whih-th-er): To what place

**Unsay** (/ʌnˈseɪ/, uhn-sey): take back, withdraw, retract

**Phoebe:** Within Roman mythology, Phoebe refers to another form of Diana, specifically when she is acting as goddess of the moon.

**Visage** (/ˈvɪzɪdʒ/, vih-sih-ge): face, countenance

## Act I, Scene 2

**Generally** (/dʒɛnərəliː/, ge-ner-uh-ly): universally, without exception

**Interlude** (/ˈɪntərˌlud/, in-ter-lood): short play, theatrical performance [staged to fill an interval]

**Marry** (/ˈmɛr i /, mair-ee): exclamation of ‘by Mary’ (mother of Jesus)

**Ercles** (ɜːˈkjəliːz/, [ˈaɪrkleɪz]): a comic form of Hercules

**Phibbus** (/ˈfiːbəs/, fee-bus): alternate spelling for Phoebus, the Roman sun god. The car refers to the chariot he would pull the sun in.

**Extempore** (/ ɪkˈstɛm pə ri /, ik-stem-puh-ree): on the spur of the moment, without preparation

**Con** (/ kɒn /, kon): to memorize

**Bill of properties:** list of props for the show

## Act II, Scene 1

**Pale** (/ peɪl /, pail): fenced in land, an enclosure

**Perforce** (/pərˈfɔrs/, per-fawrs ): forcibly, by force, violently

**Knavish** (/ ˈneɪ vɪʃ /, ney-vish): rascally, mischievous, roguish

**Tarry** (/ ˈtæɪ i /, tair-ee): to stay in one place

**Wanton** (/ ˈwɒn tən /, won-tn): wilful creature, obstinate individual

**Steppe** (/ stɛp /, step): an extensive plain, typically without trees

**Bouncing** (/ <sup>1</sup>baʊn sɪŋ /, boun-sing): beefy, strapping

**Buskin'd** (/ <sup>1</sup>bʌs kɪnd /, buhs-kind): wearing high boots

**Middle summer's spring**: The beginning of midsummer

**Mead** (/mæ:d/, mehd): meadow

**Childing** (/ <sup>1</sup>tʃaɪl dɪŋ /, [ chahyl-ding ]): fertile, fruitful, teeming

**Wonted** (/ <sup>1</sup>wɒn tɪd, wohn-tid): accustomed, usual, customary

**Livery** (/ <sup>1</sup>lɪv ə ri/, liv-uh-ree): uniform, costume:

**mazed** (/ meɪz /, may-zd): bewildered, confused, perplexed

**Votaress** (/ <sup>1</sup>voʊ tər ɪs /, voh-ter-is): a woman under vow, worshipper

**Round** (/ raʊnd /): circular dance, common in medieval eras

**Chide** (/ tʃaɪd /, chahyd): quarrel, wrangle, fight

**Promontory** (/ <sup>1</sup>prɒm ən ɪ tər i/, prom-uhn-tawr-ee): a high point of land or rock projecting into the sea or other water beyond the line of coast; a headland.

**Ere** (/ɛər/, air): before

**Leviathan** (/lɪ <sup>1</sup>vaɪ ə θən /, li-vahy-uh-thuhn): a sea monster, commonly understood to be a whale

**Adamant** (/ <sup>1</sup>æd ə mənt/, ad-uh-muhnt,): a legendary substance foretold to be incredibly hard and magnetic

**Impeach** (/ ɪm <sup>1</sup>pɪtʃ /, im-peech): discredit, disparage, call into question

**privilege** (/ <sup>1</sup>prɪv ə lɪdʒ/, priv-uh-lij): protection

**Brakes** (/ breɪk /, brayks): bushes, thickets

**Fie** (/ faɪ /, fahy): an exclamation of mild frustration and annoyance

**Oxlip** (/ ˈɒksɪlɪp /, oxs-lip): a Eurasian primrose with clusters of small yellow flowers on a long stem

**Woodbine** (/ ˈwʊdɪbaɪn /, wood-baiyn): creeping vines, typically honeysuckle

**Eglantine** (/ ˈɛɡlənɪtaɪn /, eg-luhn-taiyn): a sweetbrier rose

## Act II, Scene 2

**Ounce** (/ aʊns /, ouns): A beast of prey, similar to a tiger.

**Pard** (/ pɑrd /, pahrd) : A beast of prey, similar to a leopard. This one was more mythologically based, with the belief that the modern leopard was a hybrid animal (like a mule or liger) between a lioness and the myth of the Pard.

**Weed** (/wid /, weed): clothing

**Churl** (/ tʃɜrl /, churl): a rude and boorish person

**Darkling** (/ ˈdɑrk lɪŋ /, dahrk-ling): growing dark

**Fond** (/ fɒnd /, fond): foolish, stupid, mad

**Alack** (/ əˈlæk /, uh-lack): used as an exclamation of sorrow, regret, or dismay

## Act III, Scene 1

**Hawthorn-Brake**: the bush of the hawthorne plant

**Tiring-House**: a theatrical dressing room

**Lakin** (/ ˈleɪ kɪn /, ley-kin): variant of lady

**Parlous** (/ ˈpɑr ləs /, pahr-luhs): perilous, dangerous

**Whit** (/wɪt/, wit): tiny, nonissue

**Lantern** (/ ˈlæntɪhɔrn/, lant-hawrn): lantern

**Loam** (/ loʊm /, lohnm): a mixture of clay, sand, straw etc. Often used for mending

**Rough-cast** (/ ˈrʌf kæst /, ruh-f-kast): a mixture of mortar and small pebbles

**Hempen** (/ ˈhɛm pən /, hem-puhn): rustically attired

**Eke** (/ ik /, eek): [archaism] also, moreover, too

**Brisky** (/ ˈbrɪsk i /, br-ih-sk-y): lively, agile

**Juvenal** (/ ˈdʒu vənəl /, joo-vuh-nl): youth, young man

**Translated** (/ trænslɪt /, trans-leyt): changed, transformed

**Ousel** (/ ˈuːzəl /, oo-szuhl): a small diving bird

**Throstle** (/ ˈθrɒs əl /, thros-uhl): a thrush (another small bird)

**Gambol** (/ ˈgæm bəl /, gam-buhl): to skip about, frolic!

**Apricock** (/ ˈæp rɪ kɒ k /, ap-ri-kok): an apricot (archaic)

**Dewberry** (/ ˈdu bɛr i /, doo-ber-ree): a type of blackberry

**Bower** (/ ˈbaʊ ər /, bow-er): either an arboreal shelter or a lady's boudoir, sometimes acting in both definitions simultaneously

### Act III, Scene 2

**Night-rule**: night time activity

**Nole** (/nɒl/, noll): noddle, head

**Chough** (/ tʃʌf /, chuuhf): a crowlike bird found in Europe

**Fancy-sick**: lovesick

**Tartar** (/ ˈtɑr tər /, tahr-ter): someone from Tartary, C Asia; known for pitilessness

**Lo** (/ loʊ /, loh): Look! See!

**Injurious** (/ ɪn ˈdʒʊər i əs /, in-joor-ee-uhs): hurtful, harmful

**Rent** (/ rɛnt /, rent): tear apart

**Juggler** (/ ˈdʒʌg lər /, juh-g-ler): trickster, fraud

**Canker-blossom:** a grub that would eat the blossom of a flower

**Maypole** (/ <sup>1</sup>meɪ ˌpoʊl /, mey-pohl): a tall pole, decorated with flowers and ribbons, around which people dance or engage in sports during May Day celebrations.

**Curst** (/ kɜrst /, kurst): bad-tempered, quarrelsome, shrewish, cross

**Flout** (/ flaʊt /, flout): to treat with disdain and scorn

**Minimus** (/ <sup>1</sup>mɪn ə məs /, min-uh-muhs): tiniest of creatures, insignificant

**Bead** (/ bid /, bead): smallest of things

**Knot-grass:** species of a creeping vine

**Cheek by jowl:** side by side

**Coil** (/ kɔɪl /, coil): turmoil, chaos

**Welkin** (/ <sup>1</sup>wɛl kɪn /, wel-kin): the sky

**Acheron** (/ <sup>1</sup>æk ə ˌrɒn /, ak-uh-ron): Grecian river, within mythology it acted as one of the principal rivers of the Underworld

**Recreant** (/ <sup>1</sup>rɛk ri ənt /, rek-ree-uhnt): coward

#### Act IV, Scene 1

**Musk-roses:** a specific species of rose flower, *Rosa Machata*

**Humble-bee:** bumblebee, perhaps a malapropism

**Honey-bag:** the sac in which a bee carries honey

**Cavalery** (/ <sup>1</sup>kævəli /, kav-ahl-er-ee): cavalier, courtly gentleman

**Peck** (/ pɛk /, pek): unit of measurement equal to ¼ of a bushel

**Provender** (/ <sup>1</sup>prɒv ən dər /, prov-uhn-der): dry food for horses (hay)

**Bottle** (/ <sup>1</sup>bɒt l /, bot-l): truss, bundle

**Dotage** (/ <sup>1</sup>dɔʊ tɪdʒ /, doh-tij): excessive fondness

**Upbraid** (/ ʌp<sup>1</sup>breɪd /, uhp-breyd): to censure, to rebuke severely

**Swain** (/ sweɪn /, sweyn): a country lad

**Forester** (/ <sup>1</sup>fɔr ə stər /, fawr-uh-ster): an officer having responsibility for the maintenance of a forest.

**Hercules** (/ <sup>1</sup>hɜr kyə<sup>1</sup>liz /, hur-kyuh-leez): one of the legendary Greek heroes, known for his immense strength

**Cadmus** (/ <sup>1</sup>kæd məs /, kad-muhs): legendary Greek hero, first king of Thebes

**Concord** (/ <sup>1</sup>kɒn kɔrd /, kawn-kord): agreement, pleasantries

**Solemnity** (/ sə<sup>1</sup>lɛm nɪ ti /, suh-lem-ni-tee): celebration, jubilation

**Peradventure** (/ <sup>1</sup>pɜr əd<sup>1</sup>vɛn tʃər /, pur-uhd-ven-cher): perhaps, likely

#### **Act IV, Scene II**

**Transported** (/ træn<sup>1</sup>s<sup>1</sup>pɔr tɪd /, trans-pawr-tid): kidnapped, taken away

#### **Act V, Scene I**

**Masque** (/ məsk /, mahsk): a form of aristocratic entertainment in England in the 16th and 17th centuries, originally consisting of pantomime and dancing but later including dialogue and song, presented in elaborate productions given by amateur and professional actors.

**Centaur** (/ <sup>1</sup>sɛn tɔr /, sen-tawr): a race of creature in mythology possessing the upper half of a man and the lower half of a horse

**Eunuch** (/ <sup>1</sup>yu nək /, yoo-nuhk): a castrated man, often capable of singing countertenor

**Bacchanal** (/ bɑ kə<sup>1</sup>nəl /, bah-kuh-nahl): a follower of Bacchus, Roman god of revelry and wine

**Thracian** (/ <sup>1</sup>θreɪ ʃən /, threy-shun): region of NE Greece, often associated with Dionysis (Bacchus)



**Jove** (/ dʒoʊv /, j-oh-ve): alternate name for Jupiter, the Roman supreme god

**Limander (Leander) and Helen (Hero)**: malapropism for the story of Leander and Hero, a VERY dedicated couple who swore to be with each other always (both die.)

**Shafalus (Cephalus) and Procrus (Procris)**: mispronunciation of Cephalus and Procris, another Grecian myth about the power of love

**Beshrew** (/ bɪ ˈʃru /, bih-shroo): curse, invoke evil upon

**Pap** (/ pæp /, pap): breast, section of chest

**Cowslip** (/ ˈkaʊ slɪp /, cow-slip): english primrose

**Bergomask** (/b ɜː ɡəm ɪ ask/, ber-go-mask): in the style of the inhabitants of Bergamo, a region in North Italy

**Scape** (/ skeɪp /, skype): escape, avoid