**Words and Phrases Coined by Shakespeare**

**For many English-speakers, the following phrases are familiar enough to be considered common expressions, proverbs, and/or clichés. All of them originated with or were popularized by Shakespeare.**

* All our yesterdays *(Macbeth)*
* All that glitters is not gold *(The Merchant of Venice)*
* All's well that ends well *(title)*
* As good luck would have it *(The Merry Wives of Windsor)*
* As merry as the day is long *(Much Ado About Nothing / King John)*
* Bated breath *(The Merchant of Venice)*
* Bag and baggage *(As You Like It / Winter's Tale)*
* Bear a charmed life *(Macbeth)*
* Be-all and the end-all *(Macbeth)*
* Beggar all description *(Antony and Cleopatra)*
* Better foot before ("best foot forward") *(King John)*
* The better part of valor is discretion *(I Henry IV; possibly already a known saying)*
* In a better world than this *(As You Like It)*
* Neither a borrower nor a lender be *(Hamlet)*
* Brave new world *(The Tempest)*
* Break the ice *(The Taming of the Shrew)*
* Breathed his last *(3 Henry VI)*
* Brevity is the soul of wit *(Hamlet)*
* Refuse to budge an inch *(Measure for Measure / Taming of the Shrew)*
* Cold comfort *(The Taming of the Shrew / King John)*
* Conscience does make cowards of us all *(Hamlet)*
* Come what come may ("come what may") *(Macbeth)*
* Comparisons are odorous *(Much Ado about Nothing)*
* Crack of doom *(Macbeth)*
* Dead as a doornail *(2 Henry VI)*
* A dish fit for the gods *(Julius Caesar)*
* Cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war *(Julius Caesar)*
* Dog will have his day *(Hamlet; quoted earlier by Erasmus and Queen Elizabeth)*
* Devil incarnate *(Titus Andronicus / Henry V)*
* Eaten me out of house and home *(2 Henry IV)*
* Elbow room *(King John; first attested 1540 according to Merriam-Webster)*
* Farewell to all my greatness *(Henry VIII)*
* Faint hearted *(I Henry VI)*
* Fancy-free *(Midsummer Night's Dream)*
* Fight till the last gasp *(I Henry VI)*
* Flaming youth *(Hamlet)*
* Fool's paradise *(Romeo and Juliet)*
* Forever and a day *(As You Like It)*
* For goodness' sake *(Henry VIII)*
* Foregone conclusion *(Othello)*
* Full circle *(King Lear)*
* The game is afoot *(I Henry IV)*
* The game is up *(Cymbeline)*
* Give the devil his due *(I Henry IV)*
* Good riddance *(Troilus and Cressida)*
* Jealousy is the green-eyed monster *(Othello)*
* It was Greek to me *(Julius Caesar)*
* Heart of gold *(Henry V)*
* Her infinite variety *(Antony and Cleopatra)*
* 'Tis high time *(The Comedy of Errors)*
* Hoist with his own petard *(Hamlet)*
* Household words *(Henry V)*
* A horse, a horse! My kingdom for a horse! *(Richard III)*
* Ill wind which blows no man to good *(2 Henry IV)*
* Improbable fiction *(Twelfth Night)*
* In a pickle *(The Tempest)*
* In my heart of hearts *(Hamlet)*
* In my mind's eye (*Hamlet*)
* Infinite space *(Hamlet)*
* Infirm of purpose *(Macbeth)*
* In a pickle *(The Tempest)*
* In my book of memory *(I Henry VI)*
* It is but so-so*(As You Like It)*
* It smells to heaven *(Hamlet)*
* Itching palm *(Julius Caesar)*
* Kill with kindness *(Taming of the Shrew)*
* Killing frost *(Henry VIII)*
* Knit brow *(The Rape of Lucrece)*
* Knock knock! Who's there? *(Macbeth)*
* Laid on with a trowel *(As You Like It)*
* Laughing stock *(The Merry Wives of Windsor)*
* Laugh yourself into stitches *(Twelfth Night)*
* Lean and hungry look *(Julius Caesar)*
* Lie low *(Much Ado about Nothing)*
* Live long day *(Julius Caesar)*
* Love is blind *(Merchant of Venice)*
* Men's evil manners live in brass; their virtues we write in water *(Henry VIII)*
* Melted into thin air *(The Tempest)*
* Though this be madness, yet there is method in it ("There's a method to my madness") *(Hamlet)*
* Make a virtue of necessity *(The Two Gentlemen of Verona)*
* The Makings of*(Henry VIII)*
* Milk of human kindness *(Macbeth)*
* Ministering angel *(Hamlet)*
* Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows *(The Tempest)*
* More honored in the breach than in the observance *(Hamlet)*
* More in sorrow than in anger *(Hamlet)*
* More sinned against than sinning *(King Lear)*
* Much Ado About Nothing *(title)*
* Murder most foul *(Hamlet)*
* Murder will out *(Hamlet)*
* Naked truth *(Love's Labours Lost)*
* Neither rhyme nor reason *(As You Like It)*
* Not slept one wink *(Cymbeline)*
* Nothing in his life became him like the leaving it *(Macbeth)*
* [Obvious] as a nose on a man's face *(The Two Gentlemen of Verona)*
* Once more into the breach *(Henry V)*
* One fell swoop *(Macbeth)*
* One that loved not wisely but too well *(Othello)*
* Time is out of joint *(Hamlet)*
* Out of the jaws of death *(Twelfth Night)*
* Own flesh and blood *(Hamlet)*
* Star-crossed lovers *(Romeo and Juliet)*
* Parting is such sweet sorrow *(Romeo and Juliet)*
* What's past is prologue *(The Tempest)*
* [What] a piece of work [is man] *(Hamlet)*
* Pitched battle *(Taming of the Shrew)*
* A plague on both your houses *(Romeo and Juliet)*
* Play fast and loose *(King John)*
* Pomp and circumstance *(Othello)*
* [A poor] thing, but mine own *(As You Like It)*
* Pound of flesh *(The Merchant of Venice)*
* Primrose path *(Hamlet)*
* Quality of mercy is not strained *(The Merchant of Venice)*
* Salad days *(Antony and Cleopatra)*
* Sea change *(The Tempest)*
* Seen better days *(As You Like It? Timon of Athens?)*
* Send packing *(I Henry IV)*
* How sharper than the serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child *(King Lear)*
* Shall I compare thee to a summer's day *(Sonnets)*
* Make short shrift *(Richard III)*
* Sick at heart *(Hamlet)*
* Snail paced *(Troilus and Cressida)*
* Something in the wind *(The Comedy of Errors)*
* Something wicked this way comes *(Macbeth)*
* A sorry sight *(Macbeth)*
* Sound and fury *(Macbeth)*
* Spotless reputation *(Richard II)*
* Stony hearted *(I Henry IV)*
* Such stuff as dreams are made on *(The Tempest)*
* Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep ("Still waters run deep") *(2 Henry VI)*
* The short and the long of it *(The Merry Wives of Windsor)*
* Sweet are the uses of adversity *(As You Like It)*
* Sweets to the sweet *(Hamlet)*
* Swift as a shadow *(A Midsummer Night's Dream*
* Tedious as a twice-told tale *(King John)*
* Set my teeth on edge *(I Henry IV)*
* Tell truth and shame the devil *(1 Henry IV)*
* Thereby hangs a tale *(Othello; in context, this seems to have been already in use)*
* There's no such thing (?) *(Macbeth)*
* There's the rub *(Hamlet)*
* This mortal coil *(Hamlet)*
* To gild refined gold, to pain the lily ("to gild the lily") *(King John)*
* To thine own self be true *(Hamlet)*
* Too much of a good thing *(As You Like It)*
* Tower of strength *(Richard III)*
* Towering passion *(Hamlet)*
* Trippingly on the tongue *(Hamlet)*
* Truth will out *(The Merchant of Venice)*
* Violent delights have violent ends *(Romeo and Juliet)*
* Wear my heart upon my sleeve *(Othello)*
* What the dickens *(The Merry Wives of Windsor)*
* What's done is done *(Macbeth)*
* What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. *(Romeo and Juliet)*
* What fools these mortals be *(A Midsummer Night's Dream)*
* What the dickens *(The Merry Wives of Windsor)*
* Wild-goose chase *(Romeo and Juliet)*
* Wish is father to that thought *(2 Henry IV)*
* Witching time of night *(Hamlet)*
* Working-day world *(As You Like It)*
* The world's my oyster *(2 Henry IV)*
* Yeoman's service *(Hamlet)*