

Engaging Post

**LearnEnglish – British Council**

Published by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs ·

Hi everyone and welcome to our special Exploring English: Shakespeare Language Clinic! I'm joined today by course educators Ann from [TeachingEnglish - British Council](#) and Tina, and Lisa from the [Shakespeare Birthplace Trust](#). Ask your questions in the comments below and we'll try to answer as many as we can over the next hour! Ready? Then let's start!

Neil

#FLShakespeareEE #ShakespeareLives #MOOC

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LearnEnglish Tina, ZiShun Yoong, Lilian Lima and 83 others like this.

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**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi everyone!

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 5 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs**Mary Ouma** Hi dear Neil![Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · 23 hrs**Marcos Ssali** Hi, marcos in Uganda. I read the merchant of Venice and loved it but I was challenged by the English norms and grammar, why did Shakespeare use such horrid terms[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · 23 hrs

LearnEnglish – British Council Hi [Marcos](#), English has changed quite a bit since Shakespeare's time so it can be a real challenge to read, even for native speakers. Try these versions where you can read the original and a side-by-side modern English version: <http://nfs.sparknotes.com/>

Neil

No Fear Shakespeare: Shakespeare's plays plus a modern translation you can understand

No Fear Shakespeare puts Shakespeare's language side-by-side with a facing-page translation into modern English—the kind of English people actually speak today.

NFS.SPARKNOTES.COM

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Write a reply...



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi everyone, it's time for us to finish now! Thanks very much to Lisa and Ann for coming along. Tina and I will still be here for a little while to answer questions asked up to now. Thanks for all your great questions and we'll see you back on the course!

Neil

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 7 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs**Nicole Cole** Thank you [LearnEnglish – British Council](#)! I wholly appreciate this Facebook Language Clinic! #ONELOVE[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · 23 hrs**Jean Garay Lloreda** Thanks Neil for the links.[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · 23 hrs**Rafael Medina Iglesias** Thank you![Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · 23 hrs**Rocío Trujillo** Thanks to you!![Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · 23 hrs**Anna Afonso** Thank you for the answers and for the course!

**Anacélia Gaspar**

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Sa Za Hi dear educators.Thanks a lot for this great course.It's amazing.Please what's the meaning of 'The world is my oyster '? is it : The world is mine or is it means that I can do everything that I want? Thank you so much.

Unlike · Reply · 6 · 23 hrs



TeachingEnglish - British Council More the second, Sa Za, I think. I'd say it means 'I have the ability and the freedom to do exactly what you want'.

Ann

Like · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Sa Za**, it really means that you have many choices and opportunities available and that you are ready and prepared to take advantage of them.

Neil

Like · Reply · 9 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs



Sa Za Hi Ann thanks a lot.And thanks a lot for all your efforts on the course.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Sa Za Hi Neil.Thank you so much.Thanks a lot for all your efforts.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish Tina Hi again **Sa** only one week left on the course but I'm really glad that you are enjoying it so far ...

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Sa Za Hi Tina.Really I'm enjoying so far and I'm so sad that only one week left on the course.Thanks a lot for all your efforts.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Gemma Cash Hi! I'm going to the Globe theater soon and was wondering if there is anything you recommend to do while visiting.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Gemma Cash i am actually Leah but I am just writing on my mums account

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Gemma Cash Thank you so much for all your hard work put into the course. I have really enjoyed it and my knowledge of Shakespeare has expanded greatly.

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Leah (**Gemma**), I'm glad you're enjoying the course! Good luck at The Globe - I'm sure you'll have a great time! I think they have great guides, information for visitors and educational resources, so they're the best people to ask - have you checked out this page?

<http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/education>

Neil



Globe Education | Shakespeare's
Globe / Shakespeare's Globe

SHAKESPEARESGLOBE.COM

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 2 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Hi, Lisa here from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Fire away with your questions! (This is my first facebook clinic, so bear with me if I'm a bit slow.)

Unlike · Reply · 6 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Lisa! It's great to have you here! Don't worry - it usually takes a few minutes to get going.

Neil

Like · Reply · 3 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs



Mary Ouma Hi dear Lisa!It's so nice to see you here.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Thank you, Mary - what a lovely welcome!

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Sa Za Hi Lisa.Great to see you here.Your information very useful.Thanks a lot.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 24 hrs



Write a reply...



José Márlío Salviano Hello, my name is Márlío.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Márlío! Do you have a question for us today?

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs



José Márlío Salviano Besides all his legacy of works that Shakespeare's works that stood out?

Like · Reply · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Márlío, I'm not 100% clear what you're asking there - could you explain a little more?

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs



José Márlío Salviano What other works of Shakespeare that stood out beyond what we know?

Like · Reply · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi José, that's an interesting question! If you mean what is his legacy beyond the actual works themselves, then definitely the greatest thing is his contribution to the English language. As well as all the words and expressions that he gave us which we still use today, he changed the way we use the English language and his influence can be seen in everything from advertising to Hollywood action movies!

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 3 hrs



Write a reply...



Rafael Medina Iglesias One grammar question: Which is more correct "Every other things have happened" or "Every other thing had happened" or "All other things have happened"?

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs



TeachingEnglish - British Council Hi Rafael,

If you give me the context, I can probably give you a more accurate answer. However, I think the way I'd express it would be, according to the time scale, either 'Everything else has happened' or 'Everything else had happened'.

Ann

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Rafael, there are a couple of problems that we have to look at first. 'Every other things have happened' is not possible - 'every' is used with singular nouns, 'every other thing', so your sentence would have to be 'every other thing has happened'. Once you make that change all three sentences are possible, but they are not interchangeable. 'Has happened' is the present perfect tense and means 'up to the present time'. 'Had happened' is past perfect and means 'before some other thing in the past. So it really depends on the context. 'All other things' is just another (less common) way of saying 'every other thing'.

Neil

Like · Reply · 3 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs



Rafael Medina Iglesias "this is what happens, if it happens at all, after every other things have happened" _ "this is what happens, if it happens at all, after everything else has happened"-Yes, it sounds much better. Thank you!

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Jean Garay Lloreda What would be your answer if someone tells you that Shakespeare did not exist? This happened to me yesterday.

Unlike · Reply · 7 · 23 hrs

Hide 11 Replies



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust In that case, somebody must have done a lot of work to fake a great many historical documents! There is no doubt that Shakespeare existed

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Jean, just to add to what Lisa said, this is at the extreme end of the conspiracy theories that Shakespeare didn't write his plays and you can read more about it here:
<http://www.bbcamerica.com/.../did-shakespeare-really...>
<http://shakespeareauthorship.com/howdowe.html>
 Was Shakespeare a fraud? <http://bit.ly/1ZwH8d9>
 Did Shakespeare write his plays? - <http://bit.ly/1S1JZoS>

I think that should give you enough information to disagree the next time someone says something like that to you! Neil

Like · Reply · 10 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs · Edited



Jean Garay Lloreda I do agree with you but there is a theory that he did not exist. There is also a theory that the holocaust did not happen so.....

Like · Reply · 23 hrs



Nicoletta Bruni in spite of many people say this, and films like Anonymous don't help, don't you think is helpful to do a lesson of the course about this?

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Sidal Ahmed Saadi Even if Shakespeare the actor is not the real author there is man who wrote all the plays because in my opinion the works are of one hand and mind. sidali

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Sergey Krutko Such a nice quote: "if you think Shakespeare didn't write his plays, you have to believe in vast arrays of impossible plots, and, if you think he did, then you have to believe in an impossible talent"

Unlike · Reply · 4 · 23 hrs



Jean Garay Lloreda Thanks a lot for the links. I am curious to know what they say, beginning with Mark Twain, Shapiro, Freud etc.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Jean Garay Lloreda Thanks Neil for the links.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs

Now this is only visible to the person who wrote it and their friends.

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Kiyeni Kimeko I am convinced that he existed. The consistency in style in his works attests to this.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Sergey Krutko Inna Afanaseva I'm still in doubts, but it doesn't impact anyhow to my love to "Shakespeare" and his plays, whoever he was)

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 21 hrs



Write a reply...



Anacélia Gaspar I'd like to thank all the Educators and participants, it's been really helpful and useful to follow all the threads

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council That's great to hear **Anacélia**! Enjoy the rest of the course!
 Neil

Like · Reply · 1 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs



Sa Za I think Shakespeare's tragedies are well known than his comedies and it's a big question for me, actually why?

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Hello. It's true that his tragedies seem to be better known internationally than his comedies, or even his history plays. I am not quite sure why that is but perhaps it's got something to do with translation - passion is easier to translate than jokes? What do you think?

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Sa Za**, that's an interesting question. I think that it's probably a combination of many different things - perhaps a historical feeling going all the way back to classical drama that tragedies are somehow deeper and truer, and that comedy is of less literary value. Perhaps changing fashions too and the fact that it is easier to appreciate the tragedies by reading alone, whereas the comedies depend very much on staging, delivery and presentation, not just the language.
 Neil

Like · Reply · 2 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs



Sa Za Hi Lisa. Thanks a lot for your nice reply. I think so. Actually passion is easier to translate than jokes.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Sa Za Hi Neil. Thank you so much for your nice reply too. Absolutely I agree with you. I like your explanation about comedy so much...actually it isn't just the language

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Sidali Ahmed Saadi The clinics before this one you asked about favorite play; I would prefer from which character you are similar? I am sometimes like Hamlet and other times like Benedict or Othello. Shakespeare had met them so understandable.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council That's interesting **Sidali**! In what ways do you feel like these characters?

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs



Sidali Ahmed Saadi Hi Neil, Just thinking like them in some concrete situations. Or dreaming about. No concrete acts however.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Rudyanto How do we spell "here" and "hear" in English sir? I trouble with these. Thanks

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Elena Gay to spell means to write down or tell someone the letters which are used to make a word, e.g. "here" you spell like h-e-r-e (saying every letter separately).

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Aung Thet Naing Hi Rudyanto, they have the same pronunciation.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Rudyanto, you spell them exactly like that!

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/here>

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/hear>

Neil



here definition and synonyms | Macmillan Dictionary

MACMILLANDICTIONARY.COM

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Rudyanto Thanks all..

Like · Reply · 23 hrs

Now this is only visible to the person who wrote it and their friends.

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Abigail Bluejenn Rudyanto to remember hear you need the ear to hear

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council I like it Abigail!

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 3 hrs



Write a reply...



Nicole Cole Why in Shakespeare time weren't women allowed to be Actresses? Is it because of Patriarchy?

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs · Edited



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi **Nicole**, there is no question that this was because of patriarchal attitudes. Acting was not considered a respectable pursuit for women and they were actually banned by law from taking part until 1660.

Neil

Like · Reply · 2 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs



Nicole Cole **LearnEnglish – British Council** are there many Actresses now in the 21st Century Acting Shakespeare Plays in the UK and Great Britain? Does he appeal to Women?

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish Tina You'll find this interesting to read **Nicole** - Female roles at the Globe - <http://www.bardstage.org/globe-theatre-female-roles.htm>

Tina



Globe Theatre Female Roles

Visit this site dedicated to providing information about Globe Theatre Female Roles. Fast and...

BARDSTAGE.ORG

Unlike · Reply · Remove Preview · 3 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish Tina And this one by the Guardian is good too **Nicole** - <http://www.theguardian.com/.../2013/sep/14/shakespeare-women>



Did Shakespeare sell women short?

The RSC is turning to Jacobean drama in search of better roles for women. So does the...

THEGUARDIAN.COM | BY VANESSA THORPE

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Nicole Cole LearnEnglish Tina Thanks a Mil; I wholly appreciate Sister!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Mariana Estallo Thanks a lot for you reply.. i have heard in the course about the relation ship between Caliban and Prosperp as father and son. i can't see it that way as Caliban was more a slav than a son to Prospero. how do you think pepole in Shakespeare's time saw it'

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs · Edited



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Mariana, that's an interesting question, but really an impossible one to answer as there is no record of popular opinion and no contemporary equivalent of modern-day theatre reviews or literary criticism to draw on. The first commentaries on the play were not written till long after Shakespeare's death, and the post-colonial interpretation even later - perhaps since this nineteenth essay by William Hazlitt:

<https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/.../charact.../chapter10.html>

Neil

Characters of Shakespeare's Plays, by William Hazlitt : The Tempest.

There can be little doubt that Shakespeare was the most universal genius that ever lived. 'Either for tragedy, comedy, history, pastoral, pastoral-comical, historical-pastoral, scene invidiable or poem unlimited, he is the only man. Seneca cannot be too heavy, nor Plautus too light for him.' He has...

EBOOKS.ADELAIDE.EDU.AU

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Mariana Estallo Thanks a lot!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



هیدی هدی Hi

Why dont the English use Shakespear's languag in their daily life?

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council Hi هیدی هدی, actually we use a lot more of Shakespeare's language in daily life than you might think! Apart from the hundreds of words and expressions from Shakespeare that we use every day, most of the vocabulary used by Shakespeare is still used by us in modern English. The way it's used, sometimes the meaning, and how sentences are constructed may be different, but Professor David Crystal estimates that only around 5% of the words used by Shakespeare are not in use now and are difficult for modern English speakers to understand.

Check out these links for more:

<http://www.anglotopia.net/.../massive-list-of-phrases.../>

<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/british-council...>

Neil



Massive List of Phrases That Shakespeare Created That We Still...

ANGLOTOPIA.NET | BY JONATHAN

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**Eliana Trauzola** Very interesting !

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs

**Eliana Trauzola** Thanks for the link! I'm very interested in learning more about Shakespeare language.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs

**هدى هدى** Thank u Neil

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...

**Stoyan Shopov** Won't we be able to see and hear you , like in the Blab?

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi **Stoyan**, no here we answer text questions like this. It's maybe not so pretty - but it means we can share a LOT more information!

Neil

Like · Reply · 1 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs

**Rafael Medina Iglesias** Do you know if there is a connection between "The Tempest" and "The island of Dr. Moreau" of H.G. Wells?

Unlike · Reply · 4 · 23 hrs

**LearnEnglish – British Council** That's an interesting question **Rafael**, I think it's certainly possible that the setting, the character of Caliban and other features could have been an influence.

Neil

Like · Reply · 1 · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 23 hrs

**TeachingEnglish - British Council** Hi!I'm Ann, one of the Educators on the course. I also run the **TeachingEnglish - British Council** Facebook page, so a special welcome to any teachers who are joining this Clinic!

Ann

Unlike · Reply · 6 · 23 hrs · Edited

**Saleh Aliyu** what is the wisdom behind the grammer "...to any teachers who..."to me any is singular & the addition of "s" in teachers, pls shade more light.

Like · Reply · 23 hrs

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi Saleh, 'any' is most frequently used with plurals and with uncountable nouns - 'are there any people outside?', 'do we have any tea?', 'welcome to any teachers who are here' etc.

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 2 hrs



Write a reply...

**Nicole Cole** What does Shakespeare mean when he posits 'Hell is Empty, All the Devils are here'? Is he alluding to Hell being an 'Illusion'? A figment of one's imagination? **LearnEnglish – British Council** **LearnEnglish Tina**

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs · Edited

**LearnEnglish – British Council** Hi **Nicole**, no I don't think that is Shakespeare's intention. The line is quoted as being what Ferdinand shouts as he jumps from the burning ship into the sea and I think he's just using metaphor to describe his perceptions of what is happening.

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · Just now



Write a reply...

**Natalia Meza Ferreyra** Good morning from Peru. In The Tempest, there are characters that have the same objective (like Caliban-Antonio) or their relationships with the protagonist are similar (like Caliban y Ferdinand, both worked to Prospero), I found this similar characteristics in the characters but in groups of three. (Propsero-Antprio-Caliban; Propsero-Caliban-Ferdinand; Caliban an the two sailors) Something curious, I think. ¿Can we find this construction in another plays? For me, it is more evident in this one. Maybe, I am not looking well in the others. Thanks.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs

**Diptarup Ghosh Dastidar** I got quite a few useful links from the comments themselves... It was a really good experience!

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs

**TeachingEnglish - British Council** Hi Diptarup,

Are you talking about the course or here? Either ways, I'm pleased that you're having a good time!

Ann

Like · Reply · 23 hrs



Diptarup Ghosh Dastidar Both! Definitely the course! But here too...

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Rafael Medina Iglesias Hello and thank you in advance for the answers!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish Tina Hi Rafael Do you have a question for us today? Are you enjoying the course so far?

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Rafael Medina Iglesias Yes, of course learning a lot! About my self too!

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Mariana Estallo hi I'd like to know about Shakespeare's source for creating Caliban as a character and what was that called the audience's attention about him. I have read that Caliban represents the conquered and Prospero the conqueror. What can you tell me about it?

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Hi Mariana, the first reports from the Americas came back when Shakespeare was working as a playwright, so he might have taken the descriptions of native Americans as inspiration (they appeared very strange to Renaissance Europeans). Or perhaps he took the idea that Prospero did not find himself alone on the island when he arrived with his little daughter from these travel reports. As to the second part of your question, the Tempest has very often been interpreted as a story of colonisation as well as forgiveness because Prospero arrives on the island and becomes the ruler of it, making everybody else his subjects.

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs



Luisa Formisano Hello to you! The Tempest belongs to Shakespeare's late production. Do you think this is relevant in the play?

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Hello Luisa, if you read the play for the first time, or see it performed, I think it is not something to get too worried about. The development of Shakespeare's writing and his understanding of drama and character is something you can focus on once you have read a number of plays from his career.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Some people think, however, that Shakespeare wrote a bit of himself into the role of Prospero, particularly into the last speech where Prospero gives up magic. As the Tempest is Shakespeare's last play he wrote alone, some people say Shakespeare himself is saying goodbye to his 'magic' of writing here.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Nicole Cole Was Shakespeare Sexist?

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish Tina Hi Nicole What do you think? I found this article which is quite interesting to read ...
Are Shakespeare's Plays Sexist -
<http://whatsitallaboutshakespeare.blogspot.it/.../are...>
Tina

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs · Edited



Nicole Cole LearnEnglish Tina Thank you very much Sister!
#ONELOVE

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



LearnEnglish Tina Hi everyone I'm Tina, one of your educators on the Shakespeare course. Sorry I'm a bit late joining ... hope you are all enjoying the clinic so far!

Like · Reply · 4 · 23 hrs · Edited



Heather Seet Thanks for posting on the comments section itself! I was going through the week when I noticed your comment which directed me here!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish Tina Brilliant, glad you could make it There are some fantastic questions and answers from today!

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



LearnEnglish Tina Bye Everyone - it's been lovely to catch up with some of you on here ... see you in our last week of Shakespeare ... which is all about Hamlet!

Like · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



TeachingEnglish - British Council Thanks, everyone for your interesting questions! I'll say goodbye now but I look forward to seeing you soon back on the course!

Ann

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Florette Godinot Thank you for your answer, I have another question: In the course, You have emphasised on Caliban's character and you haven't even mentioned Ariel. They have a contrasting attitude, one is rebellious, and the other is submissive? Were they already a symbol of colonial injustice in Shakespeare's mind?

Like · Reply · 4 · 23 hrs · Edited



TeachingEnglish - British Council Hi Florette,

A good question! Since Shakespeare's way of writing his prose, and poetry as well as the way he presents us with his characters, is always open to different interpretations, I'd pose your question back to you and ask you what you think. Nobody can really know what went on in Shakespeare's mind, so your interpretation could well be more interesting than mine!

Ann

Like · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs



Florette Godinot I have read a lot of interpretations of that sort but I wonder if in 1611, when Shakespeare wrote this play, colonial injustice was already a topic of debate!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish - British Council Hi Florette, that is an excellent question. There is no question that there had been discussion of this in some circles, although not among the wider public, from very early in the colonial period. Most famously Bartolomé de las Casas' Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies, published in 1552 is a strong indictment of the mistreatment of indigenous peoples by the Spanish colonists. You can read it online or download it free here: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/20321> and learn more about him here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartolom%C3%A9_de_las_Casas The first English translation was in 1583 and it was reprinted several times over the next hundred or so years, so I'd say it's reasonable to assume that by 1611 this would have been a topic of debate in London. Of course it's impossible to know whether Shakespeare was familiar with it or what his personal attitudes were, but it's certainly possible that he had this debate in mind.

Neil

A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies by Bartolomé de las Casas

Free kindle book and epub digitized and proofread by Project Gutenberg.

GUTENBERG.ORG

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Write a reply...



Yada Yada Yada Hi educators. Please would you tell me the meaning of 'Methinks you are my glass, and not my brother. I see by you I am a sweet-faced youth.'?

One more thing: I liked the word 'Methinks', would it be used nowadays?

Like · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish Tina Hi Yada I found this 'I think you're my mirror, not my brother. And I can see by looking at you that I'm a pretty good-looking fellow' which I took from Sparknotes - http://nfs.sparknotes.com/errors/page_162.html



No Fear Shakespeare: The Comedy of Errors: Act 5, Scene 1, Page 18

NFS.SPARKNOTES.COM

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LearnEnglish Tina This is a great resource for understanding what Shakespeare meant! And truthfully I don't think 'Methinks' is used nowadays. Here's the definition in case you are unclear of the meaning - <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/methinks>

Tina



Definition of METHINKS

I think See the full definition...

MERRIAM-WEBSTER.COM

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 1 · 23 hrs



TeachingEnglish - British Council And 'Methinks' is an old way of saying 'I think' or 'It seems to me' - see <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/methinks>

Personally, I prefer the old 'Methinks' to 'It seems to me' and would love it to come back into fashion!

Ann



Definition of METHINKS

I think See the full definition...

MERRIAM-WEBSTER.COM

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Yada Yada Yada Thank you very much for your explanation and the helpful site!

By the way, mirror & brother, looking & looking....

Sounds good!

Like · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...

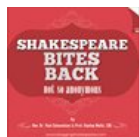


Nicoletta Bruni Shakespeare Birthplace Trust you know many people don't believe Shakespeare written all his works, and films like Anonymous don't help.. what can you do to contrast this news? Don't you think is necessary add a lesson in this beautiful course we are attending?

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Hi Nicoletta - this is a question we get asked a lot, and it takes a long time to answer it in detail. BUT we have a lovely free e-book for you to download that sums the entire discussion up: <http://bloggingshakespeare.com/shakespeare-bites-back-the...>



Shakespeare Bites Back - The Book - Blogging Shakespeare

BLOGGINGSHAKESPEARE.COM

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · 3 · 23 hrs



Nicoletta Bruni thank you for sharing, but, please, add a lesson to the course, to the others student

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



LearnEnglish - British Council Hi Nicoletta, don't worry - we'll add this to our recommended links at the end of next week!

Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 2 hrs



Write a reply...



Rocio Trujillo Hi Ann, Tina, Lisa and Niel! This is my question: How true is it that Shakespeare used false friends within the English language to convey double senses? I read a magazine article that stated that the Bard tended to respect the original Latin meaning of words, instead of that given by the general audience. Thanks.

Like · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Rocio Trujillo Here's an example: 'humorous' could mean 'damp' or 'moody' in 'the humorous night' (Romeo and Juliet)

Unlike · Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 2:43pm



TeachingEnglish - British Council Hi Rocio, Was it this article by any chance

<http://blog.oup.com/2015/04/shakespeares-false-friends/>

This article points out, and it's something I'd agree with, that the meaning of many English words have changed since Shakespeare's day. And as English has been influenced very much by both Latin and French, many words that came from those languages have moved some distance from their original meaning.

Ann



Shakespeare's false friends | OUPblog

BLOG.OUP.COM

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Rocio Trujillo No, it wasn't. I saw that information in a printed magazine for English learners. Thanks for this other reference, I'll take a look at it, thanks. What caught my eye is the fact that perhaps people whose mother tongue is derived from Latin - like Spanish, in my case - could access the meaning of latinisms Shakespeare intended to use more easily than even a native English speaker of this time. What's your opinion about this?

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 21 hours ago



Write a reply...



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust That's it from me for today - thanks to all of you for your fascinating questions! See you soon (in Stratford?), Lisa

Unlike · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs



Nicoletta Bruni I hope so! thank you

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Juliana B Borges We have been told about the fact that Shakespeare not going to university may have actually helped with his plays, because it did not follow the rules at the time. We now know how great he is. But at the time, is there any records that this would have made things harder for him? Any plays rejected and things like this? I don't think he has been seeing by his great mind since the first play he wrote. It must be a long time process, right?

Like · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs



Juliana B Borges I am sorry, I think I commented in the wrong place and I cannot delete it now. I don't know why it is showing at the top.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 2:58pm



TeachingEnglish - British Council Hi Juliana,

There's a very interesting article here

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/.../was-shakespeare...> that suggests that Shakespeare was known and recognised in his times, but more as a poet than a playwright.

However, I don't think his success would have been much affected by whether or not he went to university. As we've mentioned in the course material, he actually had rather a good education by the standards of the day.

Ann



Was Shakespeare as popular in his own time as he is now? | British...

BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG

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Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Hi Juliana, interesting question. We don't know exactly how long it took Shakespeare to become successful as a playwright because his early years as an actor and writer are lost to us - we simply don't know whether any of his early plays were rejected. Of his early plays we know that audiences liked them enough for other writers to become jealous of the young Shakespeare - one of them even called him an "upstart crow" - and within five years or so, Shakespeare had made his name on the London stage.

Like · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Juliana B Borges Thank you for your reply and for the link.

Like · Reply · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Satomi Nishizaki Most lines in his plays like A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, etc., are written with iambic pentameter using couplet. Dose actors speak out the lines consciously during performance? I wonder how can they do so naturally? It's difficult for me!!

Like · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



TeachingEnglish - British Council Good question, Satomi! I think it's the mark of a good actor that s/he can make Shakespeare's lines

sound like natural speech, albeit with a touch of the poetic! But then again, I think it's also a testament to the greatness of Shakespeare's writing, aided by his fine ear for catching the way that people speak that, he could turn out lines that ripple off the tongue!

Ann

Like · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Satomi Nishizaki Thank you for good answers. When I go to see the hakespeare's play, I may be able to enjoy the sounds more.

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Rafael Medina Iglesias And another grammar question: Which is correct "Some has problems with this play" or "Some have problems with this play" or "Someone has problems with this play"? thank you very much again

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 21 hours ago · Edited



TeachingEnglish - British Council Hi, again, Rafael, You are really testing us today! You're first sentence can't be correct because 'some' is plural and 'has' is the third person singular form of the verb 'have'. So, the second one is correct and suggests that there are a number of people who have problems... Your last example is also correct and suggests that there is one person – who we haven't defined – that has problems...

Ann

Like · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Rafael Medina Iglesias Fully understood! Thank you!

Unlike · Reply · 2 · Yesterday at 3:18pm · Edited



TeachingEnglish - British Council Great, Rafael! Have you got anything else you'd like to ask?

Ann

Like · Reply · Yesterday at 3:18pm



Rafael Medina Iglesias It's fine for the moment! Thank you!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 3:20pm



Write a reply...



Sergey Krutko Hello! Is the Tempest the first Shakespeare play where we can't find any death or suicide? It's not typical for him)

Like · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Hello Sergey! You are right, nobody dies in the Tempest. But you also have to keep in mind that the Tempest is not a tragedy, like Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth, or Hamlet, where we don't have a happy ending (quite the opposite!). It is a comedy, where characters usually are able to overcome their difficulties without anybody dying. Which ones do you prefer, comedies or tragedies?

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Pedro J. Martin Lonso On the line of Sergey I would like to know if in The Tempest is music used in any kind of ways, as I have read the Caliban could sing. I know that The Tempest many special effects are used, in clothes, and artefacts and so on, is music here important?

Unlike · Reply · 2 · Yesterday at 2:58pm



Sidali Ahmed Saadi Hi Sergey, "Midnight summer dreams" is another play where there is not suicides or murder or stabbing

Unlike · Reply · 3 · Yesterday at 3:00pm



Sergey Krutko Shakespeare Birthplace Trust(null) thanks! Maybe, I am still under impression of his tragedies and forgot that the Tempest is a comedy!)

Unlike · Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 3:02pm



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Hello Pedro, you are right, there is quite a bit of music and singing in the Tempest. Together with what we would nowadays call 'special effects', this added to the magic of the play. In addition, this play was probably also performed in a smaller, indoor theatre, where it is much easier to hear beautiful music compared to the bigger, open-air Globe theatre. If you want to know more about theatre and music, the fact sheets from the Globe theatre in London are a great starting point:

<http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/discovery-space/fact-sheets>



Shakespeare Facts | Shakespeare's Globe | Globe Education /...

SHAKESPEARESGLOBE.COM

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Florette Godinot Hi, here is my question: As the play hasn't clear literary source, what was the historical context that influenced Shakespeare?

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Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Hi Florette, the Tempest is indeed the only one of Shakespeare's plays that is not based on a previous story. But Shakespeare would have been aware of the first journeys across the Atlantic and of ships sailing around the world. One story of a shipwreck in the Bermudas was very well known when Shakespeare worked on the Tempest, so that might have been the inspiration for the mighty storm at the beginning of the play.

Unlike · Reply · 5 · 23 hrs



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Here is a link that is a bit more detailed: <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/sou.../tempestsources.html>

Shakespeare's Sources for The Tempest

Information on Shakespeare's sources for The Tempest.

SHAKESPEARE-ONLINE.COM | BY AMANDA MABILLARD

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Write a reply...



Edgar Tobias Picón Espinoza Hello, dear educators. Can you tell us what is the name of the island where Prospero and his daughter sailed away?

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Hello Edgar, very quickly, as we're running out of time: we don't know, the island is not named.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs



Write a reply...



Sabrina Thomas Severin Sheldon here-I am in your class and had a question. In Shakespearean times, how would they have made Caliban look monstrous? They didn't have modern make up, so what did they use?

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 20 hrs



LearnEnglish – British Council The simple answer is, we don't know! No pictures or notes survive unfortunately!
Neil

Like · Reply · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 41 mins



Write a reply...



Inna Afanaseva Hi everyone! I'd like to ask Lisa. At what age would you recommend to present Shakespeare to children and what play to begin with?

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs · Edited



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Hello Inna. We start teaching Shakespeare to children from the age of five onwards, and we normally choose one of the comedies like A Midsummer Night's Dream for this, as there are many things in that play that get the imagination going: a magic wood, fairies, one of the characters is turned into a donkey, magic love potions - you name it! If you are wondering how to do this, take a look at www.shakespeareweek.org.uk



Shakespeare Week

Shakespeare Week is a national annual celebration giving primary school children a...

SHAKESPEAREWEEK.ORG.UK

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Inna Afanaseva Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Thank you Lisa! Can we use your ideas in our countries?

Unlike · Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 3:31pm



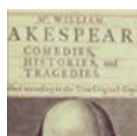
LearnEnglish – British Council Hi Inna, of course! You might also find these links useful:

BBC Primary History - <http://bbc.in/1SjKko5>

The Globe: Exploring Shakespeare - <http://bit.ly/1PsZ7Xm>

Folger Shakespeare for Kids - <http://bit.ly/1PZw8x6>

Neil



BBC - Primary History - Famous People - William Shakespeare

BBC.CO.UK

Like · Reply · Remove Preview · Commented on by Neil Stewart McLaren · 40 mins



Write a reply...



Ella Aleksandrova Helooo, Educators, heloooo everybody. My question is...in Russia we name "The Tempest" tragicomedy or someone says

dramedy... Do you have the same definition in English? How can we clearly define the genre of "The Tempest"?

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Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Helloooo Ella! Ah, genres. They give us a very rough idea about how a play is structured, and most good writers start to play around with the 'rules' of genre at some point in their career. And that is what Shakespeare did too: a number of his later plays (A Winter's Tale, Cymbeline, The Tempest and some others) are traditionally considered comedies because nobody dies at the end. But actually they become quite dark in terms of topics in the middle. For example, Caliban and the two drunk servants plan to murder Prospero, and Prospero plans to take revenge on his brother - these are very dark topics for a comedy. So that is why some people call the Tempest a tragicomedy rather than a comedy.

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Joy Nijo i was watching those comments ! its too nice for learners !

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Fatima Taha ? Hello dear educators am I so lat

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