

Shakespeare Vocabulary -- 2016

Act 1	POS	Modern Definition	Shakespearean Usage	Archaic/Obsolete Definition
1. mutiny mutinous	n. adj.	Resistance to lawful authority, revolt Rebellious	"From ancient grudge break to new mutiny . . ." "You'll make a mutiny among my guests!"	Tumult, strife
2. strife	n.	Angry or violent disagreement, conflict, fight, struggle	"Whose misadventured piteous overthrows/Do with their death bury their parents' strife."	Earnest endeavor
3. partisan	n.	A follower of a party with blind allegiance A soldier A weapon of the 16 th and 17 th centuries	"Clubs, bills, and partisans! strike! beat them down!"	
4. profane profanity	adj. v. n.	Having or showing disrespect for religious things To treat a holy place or object with disrespect, desecrate Disrespectful language	"Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,/Profaners of this neighbour-stained steel . . ."	
5. scorn scornful	v. n. adj.	To refuse or reject To show disdain or contempt An expression of disdain or contempt Disdainful, superior, disparaging	"He swung about his head and cut the winds,/Who nothing hurt withal hiss'd him in scorn . . ."	
6. fray	v. n.	To wear out or separate the threads of A disorderly fight, struggle or dispute	"O, where is Romeo? saw you him to-day?/Right glad I am he was not at this fray."	To frighten away, scare
7. covert covertly	adj. n. adv.	Not openly shown, covered, sheltered Hiding place, shelter Secretly	"Towards him I made, but he was ware of me/And stole into the covert of the wood . . ."	
8. vanity vain	n. adj.	Inflated or excessive pride A dressing table A fashionable trifle or knickknack Prideful	"O any thing, of nothing first create!/O heavy lightness! serious vanity!"	
9. posterity	n.	All future generations	"For beauty starved with her severity/Cuts beauty off from all posterity."	
10. hoodwink	v.	To deceive or trick (usually by false appearance), dupe	"We'll have no Cupid hoodwink'd with a scarf . . ."	Blindfold, hide
11. boisterous	adj.	Very noisy and active in a lively way, rowdy, exuberant	"Is love a tender thing? it is too rough,/Too rude, too boisterous, and it pricks like thorn."	Coarse, durable, strong, massive
12. wanton	adj.	Showing no thought or care for the rights, feelings, or safety of others, merciless, inhumane	"A torch for me: let wantons light of heart/Tickle the senseless rushes with their heels . . ."	Hard to control, undisciplined, mischievous
13. knave	n.	A dishonest or unscrupulous man	"More light, you knaves; and turn the tables up, /And quench the fire, the room is grown too hot."	A male servant, a man of humble birth or position

14. nuptial(s)	adj. n.	Of or relating to marriage or a wedding A marriage or wedding, vows	"Tis since the nuptials of Lucentio,/Come pentecost as quickly as it will,/Some five and twenty years; and then we mask'd."	
15. purge	v. n.	To make free of something unwanted, to get rid of To cause something to leave the body The often violent and sudden removal of people from an area, country, or organization	"Love is a smoke raised with the fume of sighs;/Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes;"	
Act 2				
16. invocation to invoke	n. v.	The act of mentioning someone or something to support your ideas The act of asking for help or support, especially from a god To petition for help or support To call forth	". . . my invocation/Is fair and honest, and in his mistress' name . . ."	
17. to entreat entreaty	v. n.	To ask or plead in a serious and emotional way A serious request for something	"Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,/Having some business, do entreat her eyes/To twinkle in their spheres till they return."	Negotiate, intercede
18. perjury perjurer to perjure	n. n. v.	The crime of telling a lie in a court of law after swearing to tell the truth A person who lies under oath To lie under oath	"Thy dear love sworn but hollow perjury,/Killing that love which thou hast vow'd to cherish;"	
19. impute	v.	To suggest that someone is guilty, to imply blame or responsibility	"My true love's passion: therefore pardon me,/And not impute this yielding to light love,/Which the dark night hath so discovered."	
20. repose	v. n.	To lay at rest A state of resting, peace, tranquility	"Good night, good night! as sweet repose and rest/Come to thy heart as that within my breast!"	To rely
21. procure	v.	To get possession of something by some action or effort, to find, to acquire	"Thy purpose marriage, send me word to-morrow,/By one that I'll procure to come to thee"	
22. remedy to remedy	n. v.	A medicine or treatment that relieves pain A way of solving or correcting a problem To fix, solve, correct, or improve	"I'll to the friar, to know his remedy:"	
23. intercession to intercede	n. v.	A prayer, petition, or entreaty in favor of another To intervene, mediate, try to settle	"I bear no hatred, blessed man, for, lo,/My intercession likewise steads (helps) my foe."	

Act 3				
24. minstrel	n.	A musical entertainer in the Middle Ages, musician	"what, dost thou make us minstrels? an/thou make minstrels of us, look to hear nothing but/discords:"	
25. consort	n.	Associate, spouse A group, assembly		To make harmony, play
to consort	v.	To keep company with		To escort
26. apt	adj.	Likely to do something Appropriate or suitable Quick to learn	"An I were so apt to quarrel as thou art, any man/should buy the fee-simple of my life for an hour and a quarter."	
27. discord	n.	Lack of agreement between people or ideas An unpleasant combination of musical notes	"Straining harsh discords and displeasing sharps."	
28. dexterity	n.	The ability to use your hands skillfully or move gracefully Mental skill or quickness	"It back to Tybalt, whose dexterity,/Retorts it."	
dexterous	adj.	Skillful, clever		
29. herald	n.	An official messenger A sign that something will happen	" . . . love's heralds should be thoughts . . ."	
to herald	v.	To announce or foreshadow something that will soon happen		
30. jocund	adj.	Gleeful, jolly, mirthful, gleeful, merry	"Night's candles are burnt out, and jocund day/Stands tiptoe on the misty mountain tops."	
31. loath	adj.	Reluctant, unwilling to do something		
32. to loathe	v.	To hate, to dislike greatly, to detest	"Prodigious birth of love it is to me,/That I must love a loathed enemy."	
33. fickle	adj.	Changing often, erratic, unstable	"O fortune, fortune! all men call thee fickle:/If thou art fickle, what dost thou with him./That is renown'd for faith? Be fickle, fortune;"	
34. to vex	v.	To annoy or worry, to puzzle, to trouble or distress	"Love is a smoke raised with the fume of sighs;/Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes;/Being vex'd a sea nourish'd with lovers' tears:"	
vexed	adj.	Annoyed, worried		
35. to abhor	v.	To dislike very much, loathe	"O, how my heart abhors/To hear him named, and cannot come to him."	
Act 4				
36. inundation	n.	An overflow or flood	"And in his wisdom hastes our marriage,/To stop the inundation of her tears;"	
to inundate	v.	To cover, flood, overflow		
37. to slander	v.	To make a false statement that causes someone else to look bad, to defame	"In my behalf; my reputation stain'd/With Tybalt's slander,"	
slander	n.	A false spoke statement		

38. leisure leisurely	n. adv.	Freedom from activity or labor, relaxation, time when you are not working, ease Without hurrying or haste, slowly	"Are you at leisure, holy father, now;/Or shall I come to you at evening mass?"	
39. to arbitrate arbitration arbiter	v. n. n.	To settle an argument, to judge The process of settling an argument or disagreement, the hearing and determination of a case in controversy A judge, a person who decides a dispute	"Twixt my extremes and me this bloody knife/ Shall play the umpire, arbitrating that/Which the commission of thy years and art/ Could to no issue of true honour bring."	Decide, determine
40. stark	adj.	Have a very plain, often cold appearance, barren, desolate Unpleasant and difficult to accept or experience Very obvious, plain and easily seen	"Each part, deprived of supple government,/ Shall, stiff and stark and cold, appear like death"	Strong, robust
41. to abate	v.	To become weaker, decrease in strength	"If no inconstant toy, nor womanish fear,/ Abate thy valour in the acting it."	
42. to lament lament lamentation	v. n. n.	To express sorrow, regret, or unhappiness An expression of sorrow, wailing, crying in grief, especially for someone who has died An expression of great sorrow or deep sadness	"For though fond nature bids us an lament,/ Yet nature's tears are reason's merriment."	
43. merriment	n.	Laughter and enjoyment, hilarity	"For though fond nature bids us an lament,/ Yet nature's tears are reason's merriment."	
Act 5				
44. aloof	adj.	Not involved with or friendly, distant, removed, detached	"Give me the light: upon thy life, I charge thee,/ Whate'er thou hear'st or seest, stand all aloof . . ."	
45. to strew	v.	To spread or scatter things over or on the ground, disseminate	"By heaven, I will tear thee joint by joint/ And strew this hungry churchyard with thy limbs"	
46. rite	n.	An act that is part of a ceremony, usually religious	"By one that I'll procure to come to thee,/ Where and what time thou wilt perform the rite"	
47. to beseech	v.	To beg urgently or anxiously, to request earnestly, to implore	"I must/ hence to wait; I beseech you, follow straight."	
48. to gorge	v. n.	To eat large amounts of food, to fill completely Throat, stomach, belly	"Thou detestable maw, thou womb of death,/ Gorged with the dearest morsel of the earth . . ."	
49. auspicious inauspicious	adj. adj.	Showing or suggesting that future success is likely, fortunate, lucky Unlucky, unfortunate	"Will I set up my everlasting rest,/ And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars . . ."	
50. sepulcher	n.	A place of burial, tomb	"Alack, alack, what blood is this, which stains/ The stony entrance of this sepulchre?"	