

50 Shakespeare Words We Still Use Today

Commonly Used Nouns

1. Addiction (Othello)
2. Assassination (Macbeth)
3. Bedroom (A Midsummer Night's Dream)
4. Gossip (A Midsummer Night's Dream)
5. Luggage (King Henry IV)
6. Manager (A Midsummer Night's Dream)
7. Swagger (A Midsummer Night's Dream)
8. Pageantry (Pericles)
9. Moonbeam (A Midsummer Night's Dream)
10. Schoolboy (As You Like It)

Action Words

11. Bump (Romeo and Juliet)
12. Elbow (As You Like It)
13. Swagger (Henry V)
14. Torture (Henry VI)
15. Undress (The Taming of the Shrew)
16. Blanket (King Lear)
17. Champion (Macbeth)
18. Secure (Macbeth)
19. Embrace (The Merchant of Venice)
20. Gloomy (Titus Andronicus)



Descriptive Terms

21. Barefaced (Macbeth)
22. Fashionable (Troilus and Cressida)
23. Lonely (Coriolanus)
24. Radiance (King John)
25. Suspicious (Julius Caesar)
26. Excellent (The Merchant of Venice)
27. Majestic (Julius Caesar)
28. Worthless (King John)
29. Obscene (Love's Labour's Lost)
30. Cold-blooded (King John)

Phrases

31. "Break the ice" (The Taming of the Shrew)
32. "Wear your heart on your sleeve" (Othello)
33. "Wild goose chase" (Romeo and Juliet)
34. "All that glitters is not gold" (The Merchant of Venice)
35. "Forever and a day" (As You Like It)
36. "Love is blind" (The Merchant of Venice)
37. "Heart of gold" (Henry V)
38. "In a pickle" (The Tempest)
39. "The game is up" (Cymbeline)
40. "Dead as a doornail" (Henry VI)



Exclamations & Expressions

41. "For goodness' sake" (Henry VIII)
42. "What the dickens" (The Merry Wives of Windsor)
43. "Knock knock! Who's there?" (Macbeth)
44. "Good riddance" (Troilus and Cressida)
45. "Fair play" (The Tempest)

Compound Words

46. Birthplace (Coriolanus)
47. Downstairs (Henry IV)
48. Eventful (As You Like It)
49. Laughingstock (The Merry Wives of Windsor)
50. Watchdog (The Tempest)

Note: Each word is listed with the play in which it first appeared or was notably used by Shakespeare. While some words existed before Shakespeare, he popularized them or used them in new ways that influenced their modern usage.

