

# Shakespeare and the English Language



## Interactive sessions for English Language Learners

*“Perfect and really motivating for our students”*

Gesamtschule Friedenstal Herford, Germany

Shakespeare  
birthplace trust

Registered Charity Number 209302

# Interactive workshops for English Language Learners

**The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is delighted to offer our specially developed suite of sessions for English language learners.**

We regularly welcome students from abroad for whom English is not their mother tongue and so have developed a suite of Shakespeare-related courses specially designed for language learners.

Sessions in this leaflet are grouped into three areas based on the students' language proficiency: **beginners**, **intermediate** and **advanced** learners. All our sessions are interactive and give your students plenty of opportunity to apply their new knowledge and vocabulary in a fun environment, and they include a free group visit to Shakespeare's Birthplace.

In our classes we make use of illustrations, theatre models, museum objects and replicas, together with vocabulary and activity sheets to open up the wealth of topics surrounding Shakespeare.

All our sessions are delivered by experienced teachers of English as a foreign language and will be pitched to your students' language ability.

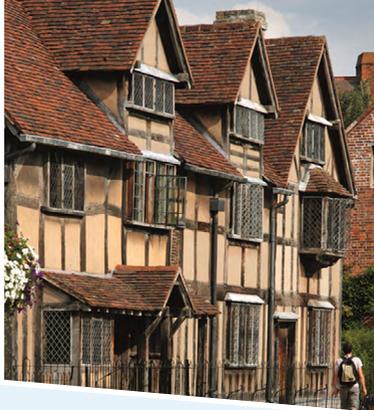
We look forward to working with you, inspiring your students, and enriching their experience of Shakespeare and English language and literature in memorable and rewarding ways.

For free, fun and flexible teaching resources visit:  
[www.shakespeareresources.com](http://www.shakespeareresources.com)

For more information or to book contact our Groups Department  
T: +44 (0)1789 201806  
E: [groups@shakespeare.org.uk](mailto:groups@shakespeare.org.uk)



Lisa Peter  
*International Lecturer in Shakespeare Studies*



## For beginners

# Shakespeare Workout

### Session Outline

A 30-minute active workshop led by drama practitioners, using music and dance to create the perfect Shakespearian welcome to Stratford-upon-Avon, the home of William Shakespeare. Students with limited English will get the opportunity to take part in a Shakespearian activity that will enhance their visit and give them a chance to use their language skills.

Especially suitable for: Beginners of English (CEFR A1) with approximately 1-2 years of learning.

# Shakespeare in 30 minutes

### Session Outline

This interactive EFL talk introduces your students in a short and fun way to Shakespeare, his life and times, and his timeless stories. Students can use their new knowledge to explore Shakespeare's Birthplace and to interact with the guides and actors.

Participants will receive a vocabulary sheet to help them with the more specialised terminology.

Suitable for: Beginners of English (CEFR A2) with 2 or more years of learning.

### Subject and key skills:

The session will enable students to:

- find out about Shakespeare's life and times
- improve listening and speaking skills
- expand their vocabulary and acquire specialist vocabulary
- improve the range, accuracy, and fluency of expression
- engage confidently with guides in the Birthplace Trust properties

Available: Monday to Saturday. Length: 30 minutes.  
Allow time afterwards to explore Shakespeare's Birthplace. Group size: minimum 15 – maximum 30.  
Price: £8.50 per child; £13.50 per adult (18+).



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For intermediate learners

## Do you know Shakespeare?

### Session Outline

Participants will begin by collecting facts about Shakespeare. Who was he?

What do we know about him? Using pictures, illustrations and artefacts from the playwright's life, the group will then be encouraged to differentiate between facts and assumptions, about historical events and life in Renaissance England.

Activity sheets and a vocabulary sheet will enable students to use varied language, to record their ideas, and to help with the more specialised terminology.

Suitable for: Beginners with at least 2 years of English (CEFR level A2) and up to intermediate levels of English (CEFR B1/B2; approximately 3-4 years of English).

Please let us know in advance whether your students are beginners (CEFR A2) or intermediate (CEFR B1/B2) learners of English.

### Subject and key skills:

The session will enable students to:

- find out about Shakespeare's life and times
- discuss historical evidence
- distinguish between facts and assumptions
- speculate about the past
- improve listening, speaking and storytelling skills
- expand their vocabulary and acquire specialist vocabulary
- improve the range, accuracy, and fluency of expression
- engage confidently with guides in the Birthplace Trust properties

Available: Monday to Friday. Length: 60 minutes. Allow time afterwards to explore Shakespeare's Birthplace. Group size: minimum 15 – maximum 30. Price: £9.00 per child; £14.00 per adult (18+).

***"A very enjoyable visit! The talk was very well adjusted to the language level of our students"*** Gymnasium Rheinkamp Europaschule Moers, Germany





## For intermediate learners

# Shakespeare's Theatre

### Session Outline

An interactive introduction to the theatre in Shakespeare's lifetime. With the help of replica museum items, models of an Elizabethan playhouse, and a vocabulary sheet, students will be equipped to talk about the differences between Shakespeare's theatre and those of today.

Together we will explore how the audiences Shakespeare wrote for differ from modern theatregoers and thereby open up a new way of discussing theatre history in relation to Shakespeare's craftsmanship.

This session broadens the students' vocabulary and offers plenty of opportunities to use it, to describe architecture and express assumptions about staging possibilities.

No previous knowledge of Elizabethan theatre or Shakespeare is necessary.

Suitable for: Intermediate learners of English (CEFR levels B1 and B2), approximately 3-4 years of learning English.

### Subject and key skills:

The session will enable students to:

- discover the world of Elizabethan theatre
- put Shakespeare's plays into the context of original staging conditions
- broaden their knowledge of staging plays
- improve listening and speaking skills
- expand their vocabulary and acquire specialist vocabulary
- improve the range, accuracy, and fluency of expression

Available: Monday to Friday. Length: 60 minutes. Allow time afterwards to explore Shakespeare's Birthplace. Group size: minimum 15 – maximum 30. Price: £9.00 per child; £14.00 per adult (18+).

***“Very lively and convincing talk! Thank you!”***

Lycee de Verrier, France



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# For intermediate learners

## Blood, Guts and Gore

### Session Outline

Always thought Shakespeare unappealing to teenagers? How about a slightly different take on his plays? This session concentrates on the gruesome side of Shakespeare – blood, guts and gore. Students will learn about some of the darker sides of his world – execution, poisoning, disease, and murder!

Participants will work with the help of specially designed vocabulary sheets and theatre props.

No previous knowledge of Shakespeare is necessary for this session.

Particularly suitable for: Intermediate learners of English (CEFR levels B1 and B2), approximately 3-4 years of learning English.

### Subject and key skills:

The session will enable students to:

- discover the connection between the plays and the period
- learn about Shakespeare's world
- improve listening, speaking and storytelling skills
- expand their vocabulary and acquire specialist vocabulary
- improve the range, accuracy, and fluency of expression

Available: Monday to Friday. Length: 60 minutes. Allow time afterwards to explore Shakespeare's Birthplace. Group size: minimum 15 – maximum 30. Price: £9.00 per child; £14.00 per adult (18+).

***"We loved it! I did, and the kids too!"***

2 Community High School Warsaw, Poland

If you wish to combine an EFL workshop with group visits to any of the other Shakespeare Family Homes in Stratford-upon-Avon, please contact our Groups department for details.





For advanced learners

# Shakespeare's Influence on Modern English

## Session Outline

Why should English language learners study Shakespeare when they're already grappling with modern-day usage and terminology? Be surprised by how many people today are still speaking Shakespeare without realising it!

With the help of audio clips this interactive talk traces the history of English and highlights Shakespeare's continuing influence on Modern English. We will work through some of the words and expressions he invented and which are still in use today.

Some knowledge of Shakespeare's work is helpful but not obligatory for this talk.

Particularly suitable for: Advanced learners of English (CEFR level C1) and above, approximately 5 years of learning English.

## Subject and key skills:

The session will enable students to:

- differentiate between Modern English and older forms of the English language
- get a short introduction to Shakespeare's English and what it sounded like
- see how influential Shakespeare was in terms of language development
- improve listening and speaking skills
- expand their vocabulary and acquire specialist vocabulary
- improve the range, accuracy, and fluency of expression

Available: Monday to Friday. Length: 60 minutes. Allow time afterwards to explore Shakespeare's Birthplace. Group size: minimum 15 – maximum 30. Price: £9.00 per child; £14.00 per adult (18+).

***“The talk was very informative with the lecturer speaking an English very suitable for the learners. Thank you!”***

German exchange Cherwell School, Oxford

***“So clear and engaging. Thank you!”***

Kingston University

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