



Shakespeare's invented words

William Shakespeare coined (invented) hundreds of new words: only some of these are listed here, but you will recognize many of them as most are still used today. Circle those you have heard before, or where you think you know their meaning.

Some Words coined by Shakespeare

alligator
amazement
apostrophe
assassination
bandit
bed-room
birth-place
bloodstained
cold-blooded
cold-hearted
cruel-hearted
downstairs



eyeball
farmhouse
freezing
full-grown
gloomy
to gossip
half-blooded
ill-tempered
ladybird
noiseless
outbreak
over-cool

puking
puppy-dog
to rant
shooting star
silliness
to sneak
tongue-tied
uncomfortable
unreal
upstairs
watchdog
well-behaved



Language

Activity 1

Shakespeare liked joining words together, to make what we call **compound words**. Make a list of all the compound words you can find here - these may or may not have a hyphen.

Make a list of any other compound words you know in English.

Invent some new compound words of your own!



Activity 2

Use a dictionary to find the meanings of **amazement**, **puking**, and **tongue-tied**, and of any other of Shakespeare's new words that you do not know or recognize.

Activity 3

Turn into **Shakespeare yourself** and invent some new fun-sounding words! Can you think of a word for:

- a small animal that lives in the woods and smells like dry leaves?
- the feeling when you have eaten too many sweets and your brain goes to sleep?
- a monster that has the face of a monkey and walks like a giraffe?

