

Shakespeare's invented words

William Shakespeare coined (invented) hundreds of new words: only some of these are listed here, but you will recognise many of them as most are still used today. Some have meanings that have changed a little in time but which we can still understand, like **bed-room** and **eye-drops** for example, while others continue to have the same meaning they had 400 years ago.

The titles of the plays in which these words appear are listed in their abbreviated form. Some words appear in more than one play.

98 Words coined by Shakespeare

alligator (RJ)

amazement (Tem)

anchovy (1H4)

apostrophe (LL)

arch-villain (MM)

assassination (Mac)

bandit (2H4) from the Italian word for people "banned" i.e. outlaws

bare-faced (Mac)

bedazzled (TS)

bed-room (MND) a space or place to sleep

birth-place (Cor)

bloodstained (1H4)

bottled (R3)

bump (RJ)

buzz (Ham) gossip

to champion (Mac) to challenge

cold-blooded (KJ)

cold-hearted (AC)

cruel-hearted (TG)

day's work (TC)

deafening (2H4) a noise that is loud but does not produce real deafness

to dislocate (KL) as in anatomy

downstairs (1H4)

droplet (Tim)

to dwindle (1H4)

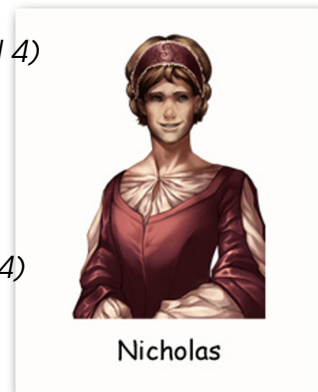
to elbow (KL)

eyeball (Tem)

eye-drops (2H4)
tears

eyesore (TS)

farmhouse (MW)



Nicholas

Game Four

flowery (MND)

fortune-teller (CE)

to forward (1H4)

foul-mouthed (AW)

freezing (Cym)

frugal (MW)

full-grown (Per)

gloomy (1H6)

glow (AC)

gnarled (MM) from knurled which
meant bumpy

go-between (MW)

to gossip (CE)

gust (3H6)

half-blooded (KL)

hint (Oth)

hob-nails (1H4)

honey-tongued (LL)

hoodwinked (AW) but *already*
known from falconry

hot-blooded (MW)

ill-tempered (JC)

importantly (Cym)

lacklustre (AY)

ladybird (RJ)

leaky (AC)

leapfrog (H5)

long-legged (MND)

lustrous (TN)

madcap (TG)

majestically (1H4)

mimic (MND) used by Puck to
describe Bottom

money's worth (LL)

moonbeam (MND)

new-fallen (Venus)

new-fangled (AY)

nimble-footed (TG)

outbreak (Ham)

over-cool (2H4)-
calm

over-ripened
(2H4)

over-
weathered
(MV)

pale-faced
(MND)



Nicholas

Game Four

puking (AY)

puppy-dog (H5)

quarrelsome (TS)

to rant (Ham)

roadway (2H4)

scuffle (AC)

shooting star (R2)

shudder (Tim)

silliness (Oth)

skim milk (1H4)

to sneak (MM)

soft-hearted (2H6)

to squabble (Oth)

to swagger (2H4)

switches (H8) meaning twigs

time-honoured (R2)

tongue-tied (JC)

uncomfortable (RJ)

unreal (Mac)

upstairs (1H4)

viewless (MM) meaning invisible

watchdog (Tem)

well-behaved (MW)

well-bred (2H4)

well-read (1H4)

whirligig (TN) a rotating toy or merry-go-round

yelping (1H6)

zany (LL)

