

## Shakespeare's Forgotten Words

Writing during a time when the English language was changing very fast, Shakespeare is responsible for making a lot of new words wider known through his plays, sometimes even inventing them. A lot of these words are still being used today, but some of them have also been forgotten by now.

Here are five of these, with an explanation of their meaning.

**slug-abed** (noun - lazy bones)

In *Romeo and Juliet* (Act 4, Scene 5), the Nurse calls out to Juliet, who she thinks is still asleep: "Fie, you slug-a-bed".

**tricksy** (adjective - full of tricks)

In *The Tempest* (Act 5, Scene 1), Prospero describes Ariel as his 'tricksy spirit'.

**yesternight** (noun - last night)

In *Hamlet* (Act 1, Scene 2), Horatio tells Hamlet about his father's ghost: 'I think I saw him yesternight'.

**bibble-babble** (noun - chatter, empty talk)

In *Twelfth Night* (Act 4, Scene 2), Feste, pretending to be a priest, tells Malvolio to 'leave thy vain bibble-babble'.

**jakes** (noun - lavatory, toilet)

In *King Lear* (Act 2, Scene 2), Kent threatens to 'daub the wall of a jakes' with Oswald.

Which one do you think should be reintroduced into English? Why?

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Can you write a sentence that includes your Shakespeare word?

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