



HOW TO

talk like Shakespeare!

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Chicago Shakespeare Theater

1. Instead of you, say *thou* or *thee* (and instead of y'all, say *ye*.)
2. *Rhymed couplets* are all the rage.
3. Men are *Sirrah*, ladies are *Mistress*, and your friends are all called *Cousin*.
4. Instead of cursing, try calling your tormenters *jackanapes* or *canker-blossoms* or *poisonous bunch-back'd toads*.
5. Don't waste time saying "it," just use the letter "t" (*'tis*, *t'will*, *I'll do't*).
6. *Verse* for lovers, *prose* for ruffians, *songs* for clowns.
7. When in doubt, add the letters "eth" to the end of verbs (*he runneth*, *he trippeth*, *he falleth*).
8. To add weight to your opinions, try starting them with *methinks*, *mayhaps*, *in sooth* or *wherefore*.
9. When wooing ladies: try comparing her to a summer's day. If that fails, say "*Get thee to a nunnery!*"
10. When wooing lads: try dressing up like a man. If that fails, *throw him in the Tower*, *banish his friends* and *claim the throne*.