**ELIZABETHAN ENGLISH**

BASIC RULES

**Shorten "it" to just "'t".** For example, "it was" becomes "'twas".

**Fix your verbs:** Add "-st" to singular second-person verbs and "-th"/"-eth" to singular third-person verbs. For example, "How dost thee" and "How doth he".

**Use "shall".** It can be used to express obligation, and also in the first person. Remember that when used with "thee" or "thou", "will" becomes "wilt" and "shall" "shalt"

PRONOUNS

**a) personal**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | SG. |
| 1st person | *I* | *we* |
| 2nd person | *thee*/*thou* | *ye* |
| 3rd person | *he*/*she*/*it* | *they* |

*Thee* is objective which means it is used as the object of a sentence. For example, one might say "I love thee," but they would not say "I love thou."

*Thou* is nominative which means it is used as the subject of a sentence. For example, one might say "Thou art loved," but would not say "Thee art loved."

**b) possesive**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | SG. |
| 1st person | *my*/*mine* | *our* |
| 2nd person | *thy*/*thine*, *your* | *your* |
| 3rd person | *their* | *their* |

*How do I tell when I use thy/thine?*

Use "thy" when the word following begins with a consonant. *Thy cattle. Thy friend*.  
Use "thine" when the word following begins with a vowel. *Thine occupation. Thine apple.*

*How do I tell when I use my/mine?*

Use "my" when the word following begins with a consonant. My sheep.  
Use "mine" when the word following begins with a vowel. Mine eyes.

BASIC DICTIONARY

Anon - Later  
Aroint - Away  
As you will - Okay, or whatever.   
Belike - Perhaps, or possibly  
Betimes - Very early in the morning  
By your leave - Excuse me or please  
Carouse - Party!  
Chide - Scold or nag   
Comely - pretty  
Cutpurse - Thief  
E’em - Evening  
Enow - Enough  
Excellent well - Cool!  
Ere - Before  
Fie - A curse, as in “Fie on thee, poxy harlot!”   
Forswear - To lie or cheat  
Grammercy - Thank you  
Good morrow - Good morning  
Hello! - an exclamation of shock and surprise  
How fare thee? - How are you  
Huzzah! - a cheer  
Maid or Maiden - A young woman of upstanding virtue  
Marry! - An exclamation of shock and surprise  
Mayhap - Perhaps. This is often mispronounced “mayhaps”, which is incorrect.   
Morrow - Days or tomorrow. As in “I shall see the on the morrow.”   
N’er - Never, pronounced “nair”.   
Nonpariel - A beauty  
Oft - Often  
In Faith - In truth, sometimes just “faith”. A mild exclamation.   
Indeed - Really  
In truth - Really  
Perchance - Maybe or Possibly. **“*Perchance we shall see the Queen on the morrow****!*”   
Poppet - A doll, and sometimes a young child  
Prating - Babbling, talking too much.  
Pray pardon me - Excuse me  
Pray tell - Please tell me  
Prithee - Please, literally “I pray thee”   
Privy - Bathroom, or more literally, outhouse  
Stay - Stop or wait.   
S’wounds! - An exclamation, like wow. A shortened from “gods wounds”.   
Tosspot - Drunkard  
Verily - Very, Truly or Truthfully. “***Verily, the maiden is comely as a spring morn.***”   
Wench - A young woman   
Wherefore - Why and sometimes where  
Wondrous well - very good  
Yonder - Over there.

LARGE DICTIONARY: <http://www.shakespearehigh.com/classroom/guide/page3.shtml>