

Everything Old is New Again!
Translating Early Modern English into Modern English

Below are some lines from some of William Shakespeare's plays and sonnets, written in Early Modern English. On the lines below each quote, translate each sentence into Modern English, as we might speak it today.

"To thine own self be true; and it must follow, as the night the day, thou can'st not then be false to any man." Hamlet, Act i, Sc.3

"What is best, that best I wish in thee." Troilus & C, Act ii, Sc.2

"Safe may'st thou wander, safe return again!" Cymbeline, Act iii, Sc.5

"Give me thy hand, 'tis late; farewell, good night." Rom & Jul, Act iii, Sc.3

"Have more than though showest; speak less than thou knowest; lend less than thou owest." K Lear, Act i, Sc.4

*"Thy glass will show thee how thy beauties wear, thy dial how thy precious minutes waste."
Sonnet 77*

"This above all: to thine own self be true." Hamlet, Act i, Sc.3
