

### Some Vocabulary of Elizabethan English

- anon (until later)
- morrow (day)
- e'en (even/evening)
- fare-thee-well (goodbye)
- aye/yea (yes)
- nay (no)
- ne'r (never)
- oft (often)
- wherefore (why)
- mayhap/perchance/belike (maybe)
- enow (enough)
- aroint (away)
- verily (very/truly)
- prithe/pray (please)
- fie (a curse)
- grammarcy (thank you)

<http://www.shu.ac.uk/emls/07-1/gurrothe.htm>

<http://www.presentationhelper.co.uk/friends-romans-countrymen.htm>

### A Shakespearean Grammar – A Fun Test

#### Other Accents: Some Problems with identifying Elizabethan Pronunciation

[...] I offer (as text) what I hope is a speakable version of Antonys Friends, Room-ens, coontrymun speech. A version on audio modesty, if not technology, forbids. In my view, its sole virtue is that it sounds different from what we are used to, and some of the variants noted here MIGHT have been similar to those of Elizabethan speakers. [...] I [...] offer it spelled out in what I hope will be recognisable ways of speaking the lines. Redoubled consonants, such as r, should be rolled or at least spoken emphatically. Even in this newly post-Gutenberg age, it seems worth giving it to you in a speakable form open to many different soundings, so that you can try it with your own soundings. I expect each reader to read this kind of transcription out loud, clothing it in their own cultural baggage. Try it.

Frinds, Roomuns, coontrimun, lend me yurr  
eerrs;  
Oy coom too berry Sayzurr, nut too preyze im;  
Thee eevul that men doo livz aafturr them,  
The gewd iz awft inturrid with thyr boonz.  
Soo et ut bee with Sayzurr. The nerbl Brootus  
Eth toowld yu Sayzurr wuz ambishius:  
If it ware soo, it wuz a greevus fawlt,  
Und greevusly hath Sayzurr arnsserrd it.  
Heerr, undr leeve uv Brootus un the rest,  
-- Fur Brootus iz un onawrubl mun --  
Soo aar thay ol, ol onawrubl men --  
Cum Oy too speak in Sayzurrs fyoonurrul.  
Hee wuz mahy frind, faythful un djust too mee:  
But Brootuz sez hee wuz ambishius;  
Un Brootus iz un onawrubl mun....

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your  
ears;  
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him;  
The evil that men do lives after them,  
The good is oft interréd with their bones.  
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus  
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:  
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,  
And grievously hath Caesar answered it.  
Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest,  
-- For Brutus is an honourable man --  
So are they all, all honourable men --  
Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.  
He was my friend, faithful and just to me:  
But Brutus says he was ambitious;  
And Brutus is an honourable man....

from "Friends Romans Countrymen" by William Shakespeare ("Julius Caesar", Act 3, Scene 2)