

## SHAKESPEAREAN WORD (514) WAYS (82)

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In 1969, *The Bard met The Computer*, resulting in *The Harvard Concordance to Shakespeare* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press) by Marvin Spevack, a 1600-page book with very large pages and very small type, cataloguing the 884,647 words of Will's written corpus, from A to ZWAGGER'D. Excepting the 43 most frequently used words (THE, AND, I, etc.), every single use of every single word is listed, with the line or context in which it appears. The number of times each word is used is also tabulated, as (6134) here (2249) and (26560) in (11642) the (27735) title (107) of (17276) this (7138) article (19). I do not doubt this revolutionized the study of Shakespeare, but I am not aware of a logological appreciation.

The tome features a compilation of hyphenated words as well, first tabulated alphabetically according to the first element, then according to the second. And finally, a table of hyphenated words longer than pairs, the longest of which has five elements: SIX-OR-SEVEN-TIMES-HONOR'D, in Act III, Scene III of *Troilus and Cressida*.

An interesting matter is Shakespeare's use of number-words. The ordinal numbers appear, gapless, from FIRST to TWELF. The cardinals, either pure, or in equivalent form (FOUR TIMES SEVEN for twenty-eight) occur without gap up to thirty-one. Here is a sampling:

ONE mutual happiness (*Two Gentlemen of Verona*)  
TWO winking cupids (*Cymbeline*)  
THREE April perfumes (*The Sonnets*)  
FOUR milk-white horses (*Timon of Athens*)  
FIVE justices' hands (*The Winter's Tale*)  
SIX Barb'ry horses (*Hamlet*, Prince of Denmark)  
SEVEN fair branches (*King Richard II*)  
EIGHT wild-boars (*Antony and Cleopatra*)  
NINE wise words (*Much Ado About Nothing*)  
TEN bones (*King Henry VI*, Part 2)  
ELEVEN buckrom men (*King Henry IV*, Part 1)  
TWELVE strong labors (*The Two Noble Kinsmen*)  
THIRTEEN battles (*King Henry VI*, Part 1)  
FOURTEEN moonshines (*Romeo and Juliet*)  
FIFTEEN wives (*The Merchant of Venice*)  
SIXTEEN lines (*Hamlet*, Prince of Denmark)  
SEVENTEEN poniards (*All's Well That Ends Well*)  
EIGHTEEN years (*A Comedy of Errors*)

NINETEEN zodiacs (Measure For Measure)  
 TWENTY lascivious turtles (The Merry Wives of Windsor)  
 ONE AND TWENTY valiant sons (Titus Andronicus)  
 TWO AND TWENTY knights (King Henry IV, Part 1)  
 TWENTY-THREE days (The Winter's Tale)  
 FOUR AND TWENTY nosegays (The Winter's Tale)  
 TWENTY-FIVE wounds (Coriolanus)  
 SIX AND TWENTY strong (King Henry IV, Part 1)  
 TWENTY-SEVEN (Coriolanus)  
 FOUR TIMES SEVEN years (Othello)  
 TWENTY-NINE years (King Henry IV, Part 2)  
 THIRTY sail (Othello)  
 THIRTY-ONE (Macbeth)

And finally, a quiz. Below are the clues for a transaddition puzzle, which is the same as the pyramid puzzles that appear in many newspapers. Each answer word contains a rearrangement of all of the letters of the previous answer, plus one new letter. The answers for 8a and 8b are two different words that, equally, can get you from word 7 to word 9, although 8a and 8b are not transposals of each other. Finally, the answer to 10 is a two-word phrase.

1. "I had a wound here that was like a \*, but now 'tis made an H." Antony and Cleopatra, Act IV, Scene VII (spoken by Scarus)
2. "Ainsi dis-je: de elbow, de nick, \*\* de sin." King Henry V, Act III, Scene IV (Katharine)
3. "They say, my lords, ira furor brevis \*\*\*;" Timon of Athens, Act I, Scene II (Timon)
4. "Gripe not at earthly joys, as \*\*\*\* they did;" Pericles, Prince of Tyre, Act I, Scene I (Pericles)
5. "And yet the \*\*\*\*\* the heifer, and the calf, are all call'd neat." The Winter's Tale, Act I, Scene II (Leontes)
6. "Dids't thou not fall out with a tailor for wearing his new doublet before \*\*\*\*\*?" Romeo and Juliet, Act III, Scene I (Mercutio)
7. "And, for an \*\*\*\*\* of a greater honour, he bade me, from him, call thee Thane of Cawdor." Macbeth, Act I, Scene III (Ross)
- 8a. "If he be in debt and theft, and a \*\*\*\*\* in the way," The Comedy of Errors, Act IV, Scene II (Dromio)
- 8b. "... thou idle immaterial skein of sleeve-silk, thou greene \*\*\*\*\* flap for a sore eye," Troilus and Cressida, Act V, Scene I (Thersites)
9. "And in the \*\*\*\*\* of my word, you die." As You Like It, Act III, Scene I (Duke Frederick)
10. "Beseech, you, sir, desire my man's abode where I did leave him: \*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* and peevish." Cymbeline, Act I, Scene VI (Iachimo)

One last question: Shakespeare uses a word beginning with X only one time - what is it? (Hint: The Taming of the Shrew.) Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.