EASY STEPS TO SPEAKING THE KING'S ENGLISH AT THE TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

Welcome to the Texas Renaissance Festival (or welcome back)! This brief guide will help take the fear and confusion out of speaking The King's English during your festival day. Please take a few minutes to read it. We think you'll soon discover that you don't have to be Shakespeare to sound like him!

It's Just English, Only A Lot More So...

Look for ways to replace one *ordinary* word with three or more *flowery*, *fantastical phrases*. Dust off those \$5 vocabulary words from Miss Grundy's Speech Class. Use them all. All together. All the time.

- 1 want a beer.
 My gullet is ablaze with a raging wild fire that only a goodly draft of the King's ale can quench.
- o Wanna get a steak-on-a-stick?

 Shall we beat a path to yonder good stall and wrap our lips 'round about a tender, juicy morsel of skewered beef?

With Modern Verb Contractions Eliminated...

King Henry's subjects contracted verbs very differently. So, first, make a concerted effort to wipe all modern verb contractions from your speech (can't, won't, ain't, didn't, it's, etc.). Then, explore List 2 for easy period contractions and add one or two per week.

- o I <u>can't</u> find your jacket. <u>It's</u> gone.

 I <u>cannot find your doublet</u>. <u>'Tis vanished</u>.
- o I <u>didn't</u> bring it. It <u>wasn't</u> cold this morning.

 I <u>did not</u> think to bring it. <u>'Twas not</u> so cold this morn.

And Modern Slang Changed to Period Expressions...

Listen to yourself. The slang expressions jump right out and pin you to a specific time, place and class (that's what 'in-speak' is for). So replace modern slang with period expressions. Start with "the basics" from List 1; then explore List 2.

- o Okay, Y'all. That's cool.

 Verily, good gentles all. 'Tis most wondrous agreeable.
- o Jeeez! We're really late!

 By the arrows of St. Sebastian! We are grievously behind the hour!

Plus A Little Do-Be-Do-Be-Do...

Next, stick do or did in before almost any verb. And replace almost any version of the verb to be (am, are, is, etc.) with just be. Then, check List 2 and start experimenting with period forms of do (dost, doth, etc.) and be (art, wast, wert, etc.).

- o I say you are the prettiest girl at the fair.

 I do say you be the fairest maiden at the festival.
- o He <u>sighs</u> and <u>smiles</u> and <u>says</u> that <u>you're</u> really cute! He <u>doth sigh</u>, and <u>doth smile</u>, and <u>doth say</u> that <u>thou art</u> passing fair!

And Structural Trick or Two.

These period tricks of word order will take you far.

Pick an Accent (and a Character) You Can Live With,

Cultured or commoner? English, Irish, French, German or Italian? Your character determines your accent. The best (and fastest) way to get the accent you want is to rent (rent first, then buy) a movie that features characters with the accent you're going for (check List 2 for some examples). Watch that movie, parroting the accented dialogue aloud, until you can spout the whole thing almost by heart. Then, go one step further. Talk back to it, aloud, in accent, using period expressions from The Lists. You'll be amazed at how quickly your brain, ear and tongue catch on!

Give It An Enthusiastic Go.

Take it a step at a time. Start by choosing a basic vocabulary of words and phrases from List 1. Write them down. Make them yours! Then, add more from List 2. Relax! Have fun! We're all in this together! At TRF, the emphasis is on delivering period atmosphere with authority, energy and enthusiasm. Our primary goal is first-class, professional-quality entertainment with an historic flair, rather than strictly authentic historic re-enactment.

Practice Aloud. Just Do It.

This is absolutely essential. Read aloud from Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet or Twelfth Night; or from The King James Bible. Talk to yourself, your pet, the wind. Constantly. In the car. In the shower. Drive all your friends nuts. If you do not practice, your performance level and your enjoyment of the festival will be seriously impaired.

And Make Them Remember Your Name!

Half your communications with patrons are greetings, introductions and goodbyes. If the patrons hear The King's English in these situations, they'll swear they heard nothing but. Be sure your character's standard greeting, introduction and farewell are both memorable and memorized!

FORMS OF ADDRESS

- o Use High and Middle Class forms of address with patrons or participants. Use Peasant and Familiar/Insulting forms only with participants.
- o It's almost always appropriate to put Kind, Good or Worthy in front of whichever form of address you choose.

Kind Milord Good Milady

Good Master Worthy Mistress

Worthy Goodman Kind Goodwife

Further customize Master/Mistress by adding names, professions or physical characteristics.

Good Master Tailor

Wise Master Graybeard Good Mistress Crimson Kirtle

Good Mistress Weaver

Forms of Address For Men

High Class Milord

Middle Class Master

Peasant Goodman

Your Lordship

Sir

Forms of Address For Women

High Class Milady Your Ladyship

Gracious Lady

Middle Class Mistress

Madam

Peasant Mistress Goodwife Good Wench

Unisex Forms of Address (Good for Groups)

High Class Your Grace(s) Your Worship(s) Middle Class Good Gentle(s) Your Honor(s)

Peasant Good Gentle(s) Friends Neighbors

Forms of Address for Children

Girls Fair Maiden Boys

Young Lass Young Mistress Lass

Sweet

Doxy

Young Master Young Squire

Young Sir Lad

Familiar/Insulting Forms of Address

Women Sweeting

Hussy

Men Mate

Fellow

Grammer (grandmother) Cousin (or Coz) Ale-wife Baggage Strumpet

Gaffer (grandfather) Cousin (or Coz) Sirrah

Poxy Rogue Coxcomb Jack-A-Napes

Forms of Address for Royals & High Nobility

Knave

King Henry VIII Your Majesty Queens, Royal Princesses, Other Kings Your Highness Dukes, Duchesses, Earls, Bishops . . . Your Grace, Your Worship Ambassadors, Generals Your Excellency Other Male Nobility Milord, Your Lordship Other Female Nobility Milady, Your Ladyship

GREETINGS AND PARTINGS

Simple greetings and partings include (1) an appropriate sentiment and (2) an appropriate form of address:

Greetings and Good Day To You, Milady. Fare Thee Well and Godspeed, Good Master Blacksmith.

Use these samples to help develop your character's own unique expressions. Try to incorporate your character's name into the leave-taking expression whenever possible!

Sample Greetings

Good Day Greetings God Save Ye

Good Morrow (a.m.) Happily Met How Now?

Well Met What Ho? How Fare Thee?

Sample Leave-Takings

Fare thee well I take my leave Peace be with thee Godspeed I must away Rest ye merry Fair winds to thee

I shall see thee anon Anon

ACHIEVE BASIC FLUENCY INSTANTLY

Here's your basic vocabulary of useful words and commonly used phrases. Once you've mastered the sound and feel of these, go on to List 2. You'll soon be scripting your own period perorations!

Basic Courtesies

Yes
No <i>Nay</i>
Maybe
OK, sure Excellent, amen, well said
Please
Thank You Thank thee
You're Welcome 'Twas my pleasure to attend thee.
Pardon Me
Can I help you? How might I serve thee, friend?
The restrooms are over there The privies be yonder.
Have a good day Enjoy thy day full well.

Easy Small Talk

What's your name? What be thy name?
My name is
How are you? How dost thou? How farest thou?
I'm fine, thanks I be most well, thank thee.
Oh? What's the matter? Marry! What doth ail thee?
No kidding! Really?
Honest!
That's remarkable
I've gotta run now
See you later

	Telling Time
It's 10 It's 10:15, 10:36 It's 10:45 In a minute or s You're/I'm early You're late You're very late	How stands the hour: 'Tis nigh on the hour of 10. 'Tis quarter past/half past the hour of 10. 'Tis quarter 'til the hour of 11. (very soon) 'Ere thou art much older. Thou art/I be come betimes. Thou art/I be behind the hour.* Thou art/I be grievously behind the hour.*
	Shopping and Dining
Can I help you? Dollars/Cents Wallet The price/bill A good bargain Expensive/too ex The menu Are you thirsty?/ Drink Deer/Wine Let's Party! He's/she's drunk Are you hungry?	order? What be thy pleasure, Milord/Milady? How might I serve thee, Milord/Milady? Pounds/pence Purse The accounting/reckoning Most excellent dealing Dear/passing dear The bill of fare Quaff, sip, wet thy lips Let us carouse/make merry In his/her cups; cupshot /I am hungry! Be ye hungered?/I be hungered! Sup, feast, dine fare, victuals, sustenance
Booth, shop Come again!	Noble joint of fowl Stall, stand, Sign of the Hither come again! business with you! It hath been a pleasure to serve thee!
Booth, shop Come again!	Noble joint of fowl Stall, stand, Sign of the Hither come again! business with you! It hath been
Booth, shop Come again! It was good doing The show The performers Musicians Listen to our song The show starts v	Noble joint of fowl Stall, stand, Sign of the Hither come again! business with you! It hath been a pleasure to serve thee!
Booth, shop Come again! It was good doing The show The performers Musicians Listen to our song The show starts v	Stall, stand, Sign of the By business with you!
Booth, shop Come again! It was good doing It was good doin	Noble joint of fowl Stall, stand, Sign of the Hither come again! g business with you! It hath been a pleasure to serve thee! Entertainment Pageant, spectacle, masque Players, maskers, gleemen Minstrels ! Hearken to our tune! ery soon The time draweth nigh for the wondrous spectacle! Abroach the gaming! Huzzah

	very pretty Dassing fair Woodness fair
	very pretty Passing fair, Wondrous fair a good girl a most worthy and dutiful maiden
Υc	u are/he is
	very handsome
	a lusty fellow
	a hunk
Co	impliment for a Woman Thy beauty doth eclipse the sun!
Co	mpliment for a Mon
CO	mpliment for a Man Thou hast a bold eye
Sh	and a ready tongue (or wit), ame on you
Th	at fellow's not too bright He hath but a spoonful of brains.
	away Get thee hence!
00	away Get thee nence!
	Fashion Talk
Clo	othes/costume
	n's or Ladies hat
Ma	n's or Ladies Fine Overcoat Surcoat/gown
Ma	n's jacket
	n's vest
	n's pants
	e Lady's outfit
	ly's vest
Lac	ly's skirt
	BASIC TRF LANGUAGE PHRASES (MEMORIZE)
1.	Good day, Milord! How dost thou? (Hello, sir. How are
2	you?)
2.	Well met, Milady! How farest thou? (Hello, m'am. How are
	you?)
3.	I be most well, thank thee. (I'm fine. Thanks.)
4.	'Tis a most grand and glorious day, it is not? (Nice day,
_	huh?)
5.	Thy presence in our shire t'will make the King most merry.
,	(Glad you're here.)
6.	What be thy name, kind friend? (What's your name, pal?)
7.	Gentle maiden, thy beauty doth eclipse the sun! (You sure
	are a pretty girl.)
8.	How might I serve thee, Good Sir? (Can I help you?)
9.	What be thy pleasure, My Lord? (What'll you have?)
10.	I prithee, come sample my fine wares, Good Madam. (Hey, lady! Check out this great stuff!)
11.	'Tis a most rare bargain! Only five pounds and fifty pence! (It's just \$250.) \$5.50
12.	Hold a moment! Whither goest thou, Friend? (Wait a minute! Where are you going?)
13.	Thou shalt find none finer in all the realm, Milady! (The best in town!)
14.	It hath been a pleasure to serve thee, Fair Maiden. (Thank you for your business.)
15.	Thy patronage is most appreciated, Milord. (Thanks for
~~ .	dining here.)
16.	Enjoy thy day full well, Sweet Lady! (Have a nice day.)
17.	Hither come again, Noble Sir. (Y'all come back now, hear?)
18.	I shall see thee anon, Gracious Lady. (See ya later, babe.)
10. 19.	Fare thee well, Young Squire. (Good bye, boy.)
20.	I be called the Good Maid/Good Fellow
we.	
21.	(My name is) M'lord, canst thou tell me how stands the hour? (Mister,
- 4 .	what time is it?)
22.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
.L.	The privies be over yonder, Milady. Make haste! (The restrooms are over there, lady. Hurry!)
	CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

restrooms are over there, lady. Hurry!)

QUICK PERIOD CONTRACTIONS		Be (Usage Example: I <u>be</u> merry)	
VOICE LERIO	DCONTRACTIONS	I be merry	We be merry
It's a pleasure	<u>Tis</u> a pleasure	Thou art merry	Thou art merry
	<u>'Tis</u> a pleaseure	He/she/it be merry	They be merry
	<u>Twas</u> a pleasure	Samuel Control of Cont	array was nour y
It will be a pleasure	<u>Twill</u> be a pleasure	I <u>was</u> merry	We were merry
It would be a pleasure	<u>Twould</u> be a pleasure	Thou wast merry	Thou wert merry
		He/she/it <u>was</u> merry	They <u>were</u> merry
	Hast thou not seen?	resolute mus merry	They were merry
	<u>Canst thou</u> tell me?	Have (Usage Examp	lar I have engaged
	Canst thou not tell me?	mave (Osage Examp	ie. I <u>mave</u> carouseu)
	Couldst thou tell me?	I <u>have</u> caroused	We <u>have</u> caroused
	Dost thou know?	Thou <u>hast</u> caroused	Thou <u>hast</u> caroused
	Didst thou know?	He/she/it/ <u>hath</u> caroused	They <u>have</u> caroused
	<u>Duast thou</u> know?	Heisheili fulli caiousea	They have caroused
		I had caroused	We had savoured
	Wert thou thirsted?	I <u>had</u> caroused Thou <u>hadst</u> caroused	We <u>had</u> caroused
	Wilt thou dine?	***************************************	Thou <u>hadst</u> caroused
would you arink	<u>Wouldst thou</u> quaff?	He/she/it <u>had</u> caroused	They <u>had</u> caroused
THOU/THE	E, THY/THINE	FUN WITH "EST" and "ETH"	
Use Thou/Thee or Ye (propouns	a) almost anytime instead of you.	FUN WITH ES	or and Eth
	ndy's confusing old singular/plural	Tack est or eth to the end of an o	rdinary verb and turn mundane
and respect/familiar rules. We'		into marvelous.	remary voto and tare mandage
o Thou is the subject form.		I make merry	We make merry
	Thou art beauteous.	Thou mak <u>est</u> merry	Thou mak <u>est</u> merry
	Canst thou assist me?	He/she/it mak <u>eth</u> merry	They make merry
	are? Wilt thou	√ بستندند	
	tell me how many years thou hast?		
	tou me now many years mon mast:	TOWARDS MORE COLORFUL SPEECH	
o Thee is the object form.			
He wants to kiss you	He doth love thee He doth beg to kiss thee He hath lost his heart to thee.	Build on your basic vocabulary ward expressions.	ith these colorful period words
Use Thy/Thine (possessives) inst	ves) instead of yours. More Useful Verbs		ful Verbs
o Thy modifies words starting w	with approximate	Bring	
		Come here	
Tour wance	Thy purse	Wait, Stay	Attend, Tarr
u nementu u seren e u un		Go on	Proceed, Press of
_	with vowels. It's also used after	Anger, irritate	Ve.
be at the end of the sentence.		Scold or nag	
	Thine eyes	Listen	
He shall be yours	He shall be thine.	Hurry	
DO-BE-DO-BE-DO REVISIT	ED: Do/Dost, Be/Art & More!	Go to a specific place Leave	Repair to
	T	Stare	
	1 even more painless period spice	Love	Fanc
o almost any verb with these for	ruis of ao, be and have.	Teach	
Do Alsage evam	ole: I <u>do</u> carouse)	Treat medically	
»v (onge cami	ok. I do carouse)	Period Pro	afassians
I <u>do</u> carouse	We <u>do</u> carouse	Tend Pre	RESHUIS
Thou <u>dost</u> carouse	Thou <u>dost</u> carouse	Fish seller	Costermonae
He/she/it <u>doth</u> carouse	They <u>do</u> carouse	Shoe Repair and Manufacturing	~
		Maker/mender of Pots and Pans .	
1 <u>did</u> carouse	We <u>did</u> carouse	Barrel-Maker	
Thou <u>didst</u> carouse	Thou <u>didst</u> carouse	Horseshoer	-
He/she/it did carouse	They did carouse	Surgeon/Dentiet/Racher	Parhe

Surgeon/Dentist/Barber Barber

RENAISSANCE ERA REFERENCES

The following is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the information available on the Renaissance Era. TRF's period ranges from Medieval to Elizabethan: Robin Hood, King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth. The Three Musketeers is too late. This year's fair is 1536.

Useful Videos for Language & Period Pointers

Hamlet (Mel Gibson) Henry V (Kenneth Branagh) Richard III (Laurence Olivier) Midsummer Night's Dream (Royal Shakespeare Company) Much Ado About Nothing (Kenneth Branagh) Romeo & Juliet (Leonard Whiting and Olivia Hussey) Taming of The Shrew (Richard Burton & Liz Taylor) Rosencranz & Guildenstern are Dead (Richard Dryfuss) Robin Hood (Patrick Bergen) Adventures of Robin Hood (Errol Flynn) Robin and Marion (Sean Connery) Lion in Winter (Peter O'Toole) Beckett (Richard Burton) A Man for All Seasons (Robert Shaw) Excalibur (Nigel Terry) Braveheart (Mel Gibson) Queen Margot (recent French release/subtitled)

Useful Books Out in Paperback

The Six Wives of Henry VIII (Weir; non-fiction)
The Autobiography of Henry VIII (George; fiction)

Films or Videos Useful For Accent Work

High-Brow English
My Fair Lady
Arthur
Howard's End
Upstairs/Downstairs
I. Claudius

Low-Brow English
My Fair Lady
Arthur
Monty Python and the Holy Grail
Upstairs/Downstairs

French Gigi A Shot in The Dark The Pink Panther A Year in Provence

Italian
The Godfather I and II
Marx Brothers comedies
Married to the Mob
Johnny Dangerously

Films or Videos Useful For Accent Work - Continued

Spanish
Kiss of the Spider Woman
The Princess Bride
Star Trek: Wrath of Kahn
1492

Irish
Darby O'Gill and the Little People
The Commitments
The Quiet Man

German Schindler's List Cabaret Young Frankenstein Stalag 17

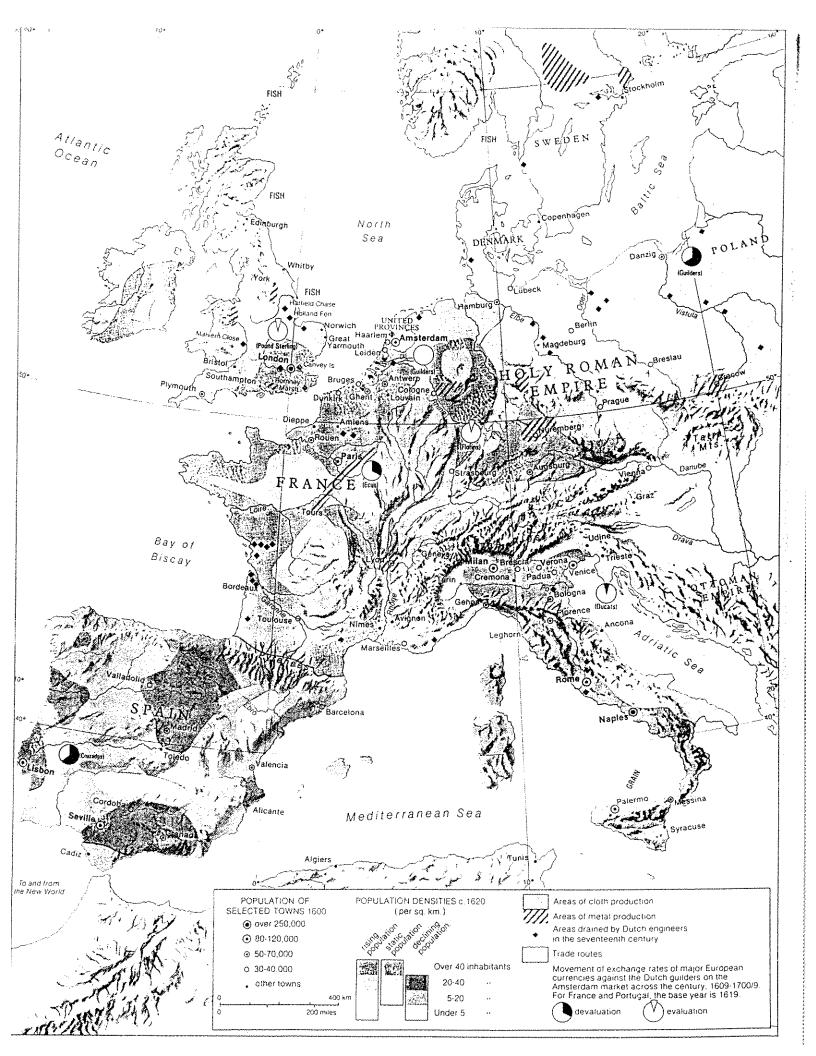
East-Euro Stew
Love You to Death
Dr. Zhivago
Moscow on the Hudson
9 Months
To Be or Not to Be
Wolfman
Dracula (any)
From Russia with Love
Ed Wood
Secret of San Vittorio

INSTANT KING'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE BIOGRAPHY Good Day! I be called (Thy character's name) (Name of thy character's father) I do earn my keep as a (Thy character's profession) (Name of the wondrous shop in which thy character doth work) where we do sell/make the finest in the land! (The excellent products thou dost sell) (Thy character's Hawk Line #1) (Thy character's Hawk Line #2) or, mayhap (Thy character's Hawk Line #3) (Thy character's Greeting #1 - for a young man or woman) (Thy character's Product Description #1) compliment him/her by saying (Thy character's Compliment #1) (Thy character's Parting #1) in parting. When a Milord and Milady of elderly and noble bearing do enter in, (Thy character's Greeting #2 - for an older man, woman or couple) and praise our wares unto them as (Thy character's Product Description #2)

..... I do compliment their esteemed judgement

INSTANT KING'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE BIOGRAPHY - Page 2

and bid them Farewell with (Thy character's Parting #2)
When a flock of Young Lads and Lasses doth tumble in, I do
greet them with
and advise them that
I do bless their sweet countenances with
adventures with
Our goodly shop doth stand closest to
where the fantastical
the crowds of goodly folk every day upon the hour(s) of
Indeed, upon every faire day, smiling faces such as mine shall greet each visitor with energy and enthusiasm, that all might say this faire be the
most wondrous ever encountered!
ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION OR CHARACTER NOTES
······································
······································



Domestic uprisings fter the invasion which secured the throne for A Henry VII in 1485, there was little domestic campaigning in England during the Tudor period. The earl of Lincoln's invasion from Ireland in 1487, and the Scottish incursion which ended at Flodden in 1513 were the most significant. The Cornish march on London in 1497 was dramatic, but never a serious threat. The most important rebellion, the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536-7, the Kildare revolt of 1534, and the risings of 1549, were extremely shapeless in military terms. Mousehold Heath and Sampford Courtenay in the later years were hardly battles. The Pilgrimage of Edinburgh 0X Grace produced no military engagement, and the Berwick majority of the fighting in the Scots war of 1542-51 was on Scottish soil. ORTH Bishop S E A SEA X 1497 Blackheath • Bath Maidstone X 1497 Guildford Salisbury Calais ENGLISH CHANNEL RANCE