

King Lear: Shakespearean Glossary

Alack	Alas! Unfortunately!
Alarum	Alarm. Trumpet sound
Anew	Again
Anon	Soon
Art	Are
Base	Low, common, not sophisticated or elegant
Canst	Can
Coronet	Crown
Counsel	Give advice/advise
Coxcomb	Fools multi-pointed hat
Coz	Cousin
Cur	Dog
Dotage	Old age
Doth	Does
Dost	Does
Dowry/Dower	Money paid to a husband to encourage him to marry a daughter
E'er	Ever
Ere	Before
Exeunt	Exit (of more than one person)
Flourish	Sound of trumpets
Fut	Contraction of "God's foot" a mild oath
Hadst	Had
Herald	Person bringing news
Hark	Look
Hast	Have
Hath	Have
Hereafter	Afterwards
Ho	An exclamation to gain attention
Is't	Is it?
Jot	a bit, a small amount
Knave	Servant, attendant
Mark	Take note of
Marry	By Mary (a mild oath)
Morrow	Morning
Ne'er	Never
Nuncle	Term of endearment (not necessarily implying a blood relationship)

O'er	Over
Oft	Often
Prithee	I pray thee (I wish you to)
Sirrah	Sir (to a lower social class- can be used as an insult.)
Steward	Attendant, servant
Suit	Case or attempt at persuading
Ta'en	Taken
Thee	You
Thine	Your
Thou	You
Thy	Your
To't	To it
Twill	It will
'tis	It is
Sennet	Series of note heralding a royal entrance
Severally	Separately
Shalt	Shall
Tarry	Wait or delay
Thine	Your
Thy	Your
Wert	Were it
Wherefore	Why?
Whoreson	Lit: Son of a whore
Wilt	Will it
Wit	Understanding, intelligence
Within	Off stage
Woe/Wo	Bad luck
Woo	Attempt to court
Worthy	Honest, true, good
Zounds	God's Wounds (an oath, pronounced zounds.)