

# PHRASES FROM SHAKESPEARE PLAYS



*William Shakespeare*

**William Shakespeare** was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist.

He is often called England's national poet and the “**Bard of Avon**”.

(Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Shakespeare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Shakespeare))



Here are four phrases from Shakespeare plays that have become widely used in English

1.



To be, or not to be: that is the question. (Hamlet)



Sein oder nicht sein, das ist hier die Frage.



Да бъдеш или да не бъдеш, това е въпросът. (Da badesch ili da ne badesch, tova e vaprosat.)



Ollako vaiko eikö olla, siinäpä vasta kysymys.

Famous words spoken by Hamlet, about our existence.  
Gut bekannte Worte von Hamlet über unsere Existenz.

2.



It's all Greek to me. (Julius Caesar)



Das ist mir Spanisch. *oder* Das sind für mich böhmische Dörfer.  
Das ist für mich Griechisch. (wortwörtlich)



Това е за мен като на китайски. (Tova e za men kato na kitaiski.)  
*разговорно* – Тъмна Индия ми е. (*umgangssprachlich* – Tamna India mi e.)



Se on minulle hepreaa.

**Meaning:**

I can't understand a word of it.  
Ich verstehe absolut nichts.

3.



It's high time. (The comedy of Errors)



Es ist höchste Zeit.



Крайно време е. (Kraino vreme e.)



On korkea aika.

**Meaning:**

There is no time left; it must be done at once.

Wir müssen uns beeilen. Es muss sofort etwas getan werden.

4.



A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse. (Richard III)



Ein Pferd, ein Pferd! Ein Königreich für ein Pferd.



**Meaning:**

To be in great need of something, and prepared to give up all for it.

Wenn man etwas unbedingt braucht, ist man bereit auch weitaus Wertvolleres dafür einzutauschen.

**And one line from a well-known sonnet**

**1.**



**Love is not love that alters when it alteration finds. (sonnet 116)**

**Meaning:** True love is so strong that whatever changes does not change this love.

