

# 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.)

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.)

**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.)

**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.



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

**Meaning:** 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.

