



# The Oxford Dictionary of Original Shakespearean Pronunciation

*By David Crystal*

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This dictionary is the first comprehensive description of Shakespearean original pronunciation (OP), enabling practitioners to deal with any queries about the pronunciation of individual words. It includes all the words in the First Folio, transcribed using IPA, and the accompanying website hosts sound files to further aid pronunciation. It also includes the main sources of evidence in the texts, notably all spelling variants (along with a frequency count for each variant) and all rhymes (including those occurring elsewhere in the canon, such as the Sonnets and long poems). An extensive introduction provides a full account of the aims, evidence, history, and current use of OP in relation to Shakespeare productions, as well as indicating the wider use of OP in relation to other Elizabethan and Jacobean writers, composers from the period, the King James Bible, and those involved in reconstructing heritage centers. It will be an invaluable resource for producers, directors, actors, and others wishing to mount a Shakespeare production or present Shakespeare's poetry in original pronunciation, as well as for students and academics in the fields of literary criticism and Shakespeare studies more generally.

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#### Review

"Crystal's remarkable output of English-language linguistic publications include *Think on my Words*'...Crystal states that this work is designed... "to help those who wish to present Shakespeare using Early Modern English pronunciation," it also has application in textual analysis and criticism. Based on over 20,000 words from the First Folio, entries can include a standardized spelling (for arrangement), variant spellings, inflected forms, frequency data, clarifying definitions, non-Folio text forms, International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) pronunciation, rhyming entries with canon location, and some pun references. The excellent introductory essay on the process of determining the original language is important in learning to decipher the entries. Most useful is an online sound set featuring all entries...Crystal's unique dictionary joins his other worthy Shakespearean language works to form an essential collection covering the language of the Bard." -- R.A. Aken, *CHOICE*

"In view of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death this year, *The Oxford Dictionary of Original Shakespearean Pronunciation* has arguably been the most anticipated book of 2016 for Shakespeare lovers, readers, actors, directors, and scholars." --*Huffington Post*

"Crystal's unique dictionary joins his other worthy Shakespearean language works to form an essential collection covering the language of the Bard." --*Choice*

#### About the Author

**David Crystal** is known throughout the world as a writer, editor, lecturer, and broadcaster on language. His work on the language of Shakespeare includes *Pronouncing Shakespeare*, *Think on My Words: Exploring Shakespeare's Languages*, and, with Ben Crystal, *Shakespeare's Words*, *The Shakespeare Miscellany*, and *The Oxford Illustrated Shakespeare Dictionary*.

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