

Elizabethan for Scots Dialect

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1. Greeting:

Guid dey! (good day)

Guid morrow! (good morning, good day)

Gawd grant ye guid e'en! (God grant you [a] good evening)

Gawd gie ye guid dey! (God give you good day)

Weel met! (Glad to see you)

Hou be aa wi' ye? (How is everything with you)

Hou ye fend thas dey? (How are you managing)

Be ye lestin? (How are you lasting)

Hou be thee thas fine dey? (How are you this fine day)

Richt welcome be ye! (You are welcome)

Ye be to me welcome, heartily!

Hou faires thy guid wife? (How is your wife)

Hou tha noo, wha' dost thou hear? (Well, what's new?)

Hou art thou?

Hou be thee thas brow (or gey) dey? (How are you this fine day)

Hou tha noo? (How are you doing)

M'laird (M'lady), Ah see thee well. (M'Lord or M'Lady, you seem well)

Hail, Master Wulliam! (Hello William)

Answers to Greetings:

Brawlie, t'ank, ye. (Nicely, thank you)

Sae faa ye. (Same to you)

Ah hae been waur. (I have been worse)

No bad conseederin. (Not bad considering)

Ah canna compleen. (I can't complain)

Hingin bi a thread. (Just managing)

Ah t'ank thee. (I thank you)

Richt well. (Just fine)

Aiye, 'tis tha'. (Yes it is, [just like] that)

'Tis indeed. (agreement)

Richt fine, Ah be [or mine be]! (I'm well [or mine are] well)

2. Leaving/Parting

Adieu (If the person is French)
Heist ye back! (Come back soon)
Gawd thee save an' keep! (God keep you safe)
Gawd ye [you] speed! (God speed you)
Ah shall see thee anon. (See you later)
Faire ye well, Mistress! (Farewell, Mistress...unless they are French in which case it could be M'Dame or Mes Dames [plural], Mademoiselle or Mesdemoiselles [plural])
See ye efter. (See you later)
A guid dey tae thee [or ye]! (Have a good life)
Anon! (I'll see you later)
Faire ye well tha noo! (Goodbye for now)

Faire ye well, Guidman (Husband/Male head of household/Peasant), Guidwife (Female head of household/Peasant), Mum (Madame/General takes in all classes), Maister (Mister/General takes in all classes), Little Lad (Boy child), Little Lass (Girl child), Cousin (Anyone you are close to, not just family name)

Gawd save aa thas fine company, great an' smaa! (God keep all of you safe)

3. Please (An= If)

Prithee (I pray thee), kind Sir (Please Sir)
An [if] thou likest (If you please)
An [If] it please ye (If you please)
An [If] thou wult (If you please)
An [If] ye wult (If you please)
Bi yer leave, Guidwife (If you please, Wife)
Pray, cin ye tell me (Please can you tell me)

4. Excuse Me

Fergie me (Forgive me)
Pray pardon, M'Laird (Excuse me Milord), M'Dame, Mistress

Bi yer leave (If you please, excuse me)

5. Phrases Ye mey hae tha need o'

Enjoy tha stew, we did, richt heartily! (We enjoyed the stew very much)

Doth it meet wi' yer approval, kind Sir?

Aiye, Ah heartily approve! (Yes, I approve)

Ye did ficht right well thas dey! (You fought well today)

Ah know not o' what ye speak! (I don't know what you are talking about)

Ah wudna hae it so. (I don't want it that way)

He foucht not thas dey. (He didn't fight today)

Whit time cin it be? (What time is it)

Come away tae yer tea! (Come along to tea)

Thaes bonnie weens, thay is. (Those are pretty children)

Baith tha twa o' yese! (Both of you)

Gie's tha haimmer! (Give me the hammer)

Stay ye ahint! (You stay behind)

Hou came he tae thy haunds? (How did you get a hold of him)

Tak ye nae mair aiples. (Don't take any more apples)

Fear ye no'! (Don't be afraid)

Ah fear thee not! (I'm not afraid of you)

Ah care not fer tha likes o' him! (I don't like him)

Am Ah no richt? (Am I not right)

Think ye sae? (Do you think so)

Haud yer weesht! (Shut up)

Tarry no' tha King [or Queen] be nigh! (Hurry up, the King [or Queen] is coming)

Mek way! (Look out, here I come)

Know ye tha whereabouts o' tha privy? (Do you know where the toilet is)

Stay! Gae nae further! (Stop! Don't move)

Certes, M'Laird! (Certainly, M'Lord)

Fash ye no' aboot him. (Don't worry about him)

6. Yes and NO

Yes: Aiye, Yea, Verily, 'Tis so, Indeed!

No: No, Nae, Niver (never), 'Tisna (It is Not), Indeed no' (Indeed not)!

And with aa (all) that, there are no clear rules to show us how to write or speak Elizabethan because the Grammar books weren't even written until 1586. We know "that people of the 16th century wrote very much like they spoke" and that in Scotland the many different spellings of surnames demonstrate this fact. So, all we can do is have fun with it, Aiye?

"Trippingly on the Tongue. A Book of Instruction for Speaking Early Modern English", Laura Crockett.

"Forgotten English", Jeffrey Kacirk, William Morrow and Co, Inc. 1997

"The Elizabethan Language Book", Gerald F. Zepeda. Pamphlet.
Renaissance Pleasure Faire, Performing Arts Dept, P.O. Box 9188,
San Bernadino, CA 92427

"Aspects of Scots Spelling",
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/k27/spelling.htm>

"Scots Haunbuik – Grammar",
http://www.umist.ac.uk/UMIST_CAL/Scots/gremmar.htm

Mines Notes

? Mind ye tha nou, thar be no contractions in oor Elizabethan
an' tha vairb be at tha front o' tha sentence!
(Remember, there aren't any contractions in Elizabethan and
that the verb is at the beginning of the sentence!)