

Shakespeare

April 23rd 2016 marked the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, a man considered to have been one of the greatest writers in the English language.

Among his works, Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets (14-line poems) and 38 plays. He died in 1616, yet his words live on, four centuries later. In fact, the Bard (as he is also known) has been so important to the English language that many lines from his plays and poems have become a part of our everyday language.

Here are some examples:

“into thin air”

used to describe the complete disappearance of something

Example: The magician made the rabbit vanish **into thin air**.

“it was Greek to me”

used to express an inability to understand

Example: I tried to understand the complicated physics experiment, but **it was Greek to me**.

“budge an inch”

change your opinion even a little, usually used in the negative

Example: My boss is rarely willing to compromise and refused to **budge an inch** on our recent salary negotiations.

“a tower of strength”

a source of great support

Example: My husband was a **tower of strength**, helping me emotionally and physically after my mother died.

“good riddance”

expressing satisfaction that something or someone has left

Example: Our troublesome neighbours have moved and I say **good riddance** to them and their noisy dog.

“tongue-tied”

a state of speechlessness or confusion

Example: Sheila was so shocked at the news that she couldn't say a thing; she was tongue tied