

William Shakespeare



William Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, in England. His father, John, was a glove-maker. His mother, Mary, was a farmer's daughter. He had two older sisters, two younger sisters and three younger brothers.

William probably studied Latin, Greek and history, and left school when he was 14 or 15. Three years later he married Anne Hathaway. They had a daughter called Susanna and twins named Judith and Hamnet. Sometime before 1590 he left Stratford and went to London, the capital city of England.

London's first theatre opened in 1576. Shakespeare worked in London as an actor and then started writing plays too. In 1593 the plague, a terrible disease, killed thousands of people and theatres were closed. During this time William started to write poems instead of plays. His short poems are called sonnets.

Shakespeare helped build a new theatre called The Globe. It opened in 1599. It was round and had space for 3,000 people. At the Globe some people stood in front of the stage and others had seats. The audience shouted, clapped, booed and laughed while they watched plays. Musicians created special noises to make the plays more exciting and they had a cannon to make big bangs! No women acted in Shakespeare's time: men and boys played all the parts.

Shakespeare wrote comedies with happy endings, like *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

He wrote tragedies which had sad endings, like *Romeo and Juliet*. His history plays are about kings and queens, like *Henry V*. Shakespeare wrote 38 plays, maybe more. He loved language and invented new words and expressions that we still use today.

William became rich and famous. He had houses in London and in Stratford. He died when he was 52 on 23 April 1616. His plays and poetry were very popular 400 years ago and they are still popular today. People all over the world love his work because he wrote wonderful stories about very interesting people.

Listen to this story <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/william-shakespeare>

Questions:

1. Who was William Shakespeare?

2. When and where was he born?

3. Who were his parents?

4. What did he study?

5. When did he left school?

6. What was the name of his daughter?

7. When did London's first theatre opened?

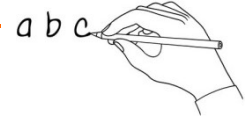
8. How the poems of Shakespeare were called?

9. What was the name of a happy ending comedy that he wrote?

10. When did he died?



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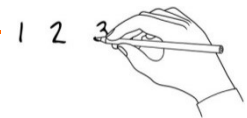


1. What's the word?

Write the word under the pictures.

Shakespeare	twins	London	theatre	actor	play
clap	boo	musicians	comedy	tragedy	history

	Shakespeare				

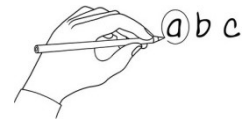


2. What's the order?

Watch the story and put the sentences in order.

1

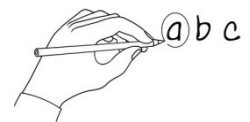
- He helped build a new theatre called The Globe, which opened in 1599.
- Three years later he married Anne Hathaway and they had three children.
- William Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, in England.
- He died when he was 52 on 23 April 1616.
- He worked in London as an actor and then started writing plays.
- William left school when he was 14 or 15.
- He wrote at least 38 plays, and was rich and famous.
- Sometime before 1590 he left Stratford and went to London.



3. Choose the answer!

Watch the story. Circle the correct answer.

- a. Two of William Shakespeare's children were _____. **sons / twins / brothers**
- b. He started writing poems when _____ were closed. **schools / libraries / theatres**
- c. The Globe Theatre was _____. **round / square / long**
- d. Musicians made special _____ to make it more exciting. **food / noises / pictures**
- e. All the characters were played by men and _____. **women / girls / boys**
- f. He wrote comedies, tragedies and _____ plays. **geography / science / history**
- g. He invented lots of new English _____ and expressions. **words / letters / sounds**
- h. His _____ and poetry are still very popular today. **songs / plays / letters**



4. Find the words!

Find the words from exercise 1 in the wordsearch below.

M	U	S	I	C	I	A	N	S	Z	L	U
P	O	Y	M	O	L	V	I	C	T	W	H
T	G	A	U	M	A	A	P	R	H	F	I
W	B	X	D	E	J	C	P	L	E	Z	S
I	L	O	N	D	O	N	T	X	A	K	T
N	S	V	O	Y	H	B	Q	O	T	Y	O
S	H	A	K	E	S	P	E	A	R	E	R
Y	E	T	N	W	T	R	A	G	E	D	Y