Asking questions

As in modern English, the verb is inverted in order to ask a question:

Are you?

Have you?

Did you?

Would you?

With the second person singular following this rule:

Art thou?

Hast thou?

Dost thou?

Wouldst thou?

Etc.

Exercises

- 1. Work with a partner to ask the following questions in Elizabethan grammar:
 - Who are you?
 - · What do you do?
 - · Have you been here long?
 - Where are you going next?
 - Why are you asking me questions?
 - Then make up two questions of your own.
- 2. Write out the following quotations, substituting the familiar forms for those in brackets:
 - (Do you) think because (you are) virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale?
 - How (do you) like this tune?
 - (Will you) go to bed, Malvolio?
 - (Talk you) of nothing but ladies?
 - (Have you) forgot yourself?
 - How now, (are you) mad?
- 3. With a partner, script a brief game of verbal tennis, where opponents must 'bat' a question, which can only be replied to by another question.
 - No statements, exclamations, repetitions or non-sequiturs are allowed! When you are satisfied with your exchanges, re-script the game using the familiar forms.

Here are some possible exchanges:

- What are you doing here? [be careful with the Elizabethan form here]
- Do you know?
- · How should I?
- Didn't you ask?
- Who should I ask? Etc.etc.

SHAKESPEARE'S GRAMMAR

Thee was used when the person was the object of the sentence:						
I give thee an apple. I defy thee. I love thee.						
This originally matched with 'me'. So where you would say" He gave me an apple," "He defies me", or" He loves me", you substitute 'thee' when it is applied to 'you.'						
'Thy' is the possessive, meaning 'your':						
"This is thy doing." " I wish thy heart were mine." " It is thy love I want."						
This originally matched with 'my'. So if you wanted to say This is my doing, I wish my heart were his or It is my love he wants, you substitute 'thy' when it is applied to 'you.'						
Thine is also possessive and used in the same sense as 'mine'.						
This apple is now thine; All I have is thine;						
Exercises						
1. Write out the following sentences, filling in the correct form:						
Thou thee thy thine						
hast done me wrong.						
I have never lied to						
knowest my heart is						
Why dost not believe me?						
If onlylove were as constant as mine,wouldst feel the anguish that I do.						
dost not know what I have suffered.						
I have suffered agonies for						
Wiltnot see that my heart is truly?						
I give this jewel, as a token.						
Please take it, so it will be always						
It is only love that I desire: kisses and fond words						

Using the familiar form as the object of a sentence

You have learned how to use the familiar form 'thou' as the subject of a sentence, and how to use it in questions. When it becomes the object of a sentence it changes.

When you use 'I' as a sentence object, it becomes 'me'; you would not say 'He gave the book to I', but 'He gave the book to me'. The familiar form follows this pattern.

'He gave the book to thee' (not 'He gave the book to thou').

Exercise						
1. Write out the following sentences, filling in the correct form:						
The girls wish to dance with						
I am making a drawing of						
hast the picture I made for						
Poor fool, I can only pity						
Hast the letter I gave to?						
This is also true of the possessive forms. To indicate belonging, we would say,						
'This is my book,' or perhaps, 'This book is mine.'						
In the familiar form, this becomes						
'This is thy book' or 'This book is thine.'						
Exercise						
 Write out the following sentences, filling in the correct form: 						
 Thou hast written this letter, for this is hand. 						
I am returning this kerchief, for it is						
Wilt thou swear this is horse?						
When did this noble beast become?						
Thou hast given heart to me, yet still it is						
Complete the Elizabethan letter below (or write one of your own) showing that you have understood all the uses of the familiar form.						
My dearest coz						
knowest how well I esteem wisdom, and therefore I make bold to ask for advice. I am in love, but know not how to find whether or not my love is returned. If these feelings were, what wouldst do? I can go no longer without sleep or food, but must know if my sentiments are returned. Hast ever felt these pangs of desire? If so, wilt know in what need I stand of best comfort.						
In hope and expectation,						
Ever						
Name						

Derivatives of Here, There, and Where.

In Shakespeare's time, people not only used 'here, 'there' and 'where' to refer to places, they also had the forms *hither*, *thither* and *whither*, meaning roughly 'to here', 'to there' and 'to where'; in addition they used *hence*, *thence*, and *whence*, meaning roughly 'from here', 'from there' and 'from where'.

For example, someone might ask, "Whither goest thou?" (Where are you going to?) and could receive the answer, "O, hither and thither" (O, here and there.)

If a person was asked, "Whence came you, master / mistress?" they might reply "From Canterbury, good sir / madam." If questioned about when they came, they could answer "I rode thence yesterday."

An idle servant might be told, "Get thee hence, thou knave."

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		131	-

1. F	ill in	the correct form in the spaces.	hither	thither	wither	
	Come boy, and look at this.					
	•	If you wish to meet her, you mus	st travel	immedia	ately.	
	•	must you go, t	o comply with	your father's comm	nands?	
	•	I prithee come	_ and help me	e to search for the l	lost needle.	
	•	I did not go a	s I wish never	to see the house a	gain.	
	•	The old man asked me	I wa	as riding, but I igno	red him.	
2. F	ill in	the correct form in the spaces. whence	hence	thence		
	•	You must go to s	eek your fortu	ne.		
	•	I walked to the shore and	to my	house.		
	•	You cannot ask me	I came, for	it is secret.		
	•	You are a buffoon;	and leave me	in peace!		
	•	He galloped to the river and on a ferry to the opposite bank.				
came the four horsemen, and what did they seek?						

3. Write a short rhyming poem that includes as many of the above forms as possible. Travel or a quest might be appropriate topics, but the choice is yours!