

Speak English like Shakespeare!

Many expressions in English come from Shakespeare, so if you want to speak English like Shakespeare, here are 20 expressions.

- Match a Shakespearean phrase on the left to a phrase with a similar meaning on the right. Example: 1 - k

1. It was <i>Greek</i> to me.	a. Everyone is ridiculing me.
2. It's high time I left.	b. I am causing problems just to be difficult.
3. I am more sinned against than sinning.	c. I didn't know what to say.
4. It just vanished into thin air.	d. I don't care one way or the other.
5. I refused to budge an inch.	e. I found myself in a difficult situation.
6. I was tongue-tied.	f. I gave it little attention as I didn't like it.
7. I was in a pickle.	g. I know what the result will be.
8. I didn't sleep one wink.	h. I laughed really hard.
9. I was in stitches.	i. I really should go now.
10. I gave it short shrift.	j. I think wrong has been done.
11. It's a foregone conclusion.	k. I understood absolutely nothing.
12. It's seen better days.	l. I wanted everyone to observe the rules.
13. I am a blinking idiot.	m. I was intransigent.
14. I suspect foul play.	n. I wasn't able to close my eyes and rest.
15. I'm living in a fool's paradise.	o. I'll keep myself to myself.
16. I insisted on fair play.	p. I'm not the culprit, but the victim.
17. I am a laughing stock.	q. I'm unrealistic.
18. I am just being bloody-minded.	r. It disappeared completely.
19. It's all one to me.	s. It's pretty old.
20. I'm going to lie low.	t. What a complete fool I am.

- Now think of a situation in which you might use each expression.

You might say 'It's all *Greek* to me.' At the end of a particularly difficult maths lesson.

Answers to exercise 1

1. It was Greek to me.	k. I understood absolutely nothing.
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3. I am more sinned against than sinning.	p. I'm not the culprit, but the victim.
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Exercise 2 - open answers.