

Familiar Pronouns and Verbs in Elizabethan Language

Modern English has evolved and eliminated a set of pronouns and verbs called the “familiar”—forms used among close friends and family and employed to address children, inferiors, animals, and inanimate objects.

Singular Familiar Pronouns

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Subject	<i>I</i>	<i>thou</i>	<i>he/she/it</i>
Object	<i>me</i>	<i>thee</i>	<i>him/her/it</i>
Possessive Adjective	<i>my</i> <i>mine</i>	<i>thy</i> <i>thine</i>	<i>his/her/its</i>
Possessive Noun	<i>mine</i>	<i>thine</i>	<i>his/hers/its</i>

Plural Familiar Pronouns

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Subject	<i>we</i>	<i>ye</i>	<i>they</i>
Object	<i>us</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>them</i>
Possessive Adjective	<i>our</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>their</i>
Possessive Noun	<i>ours</i>	<i>yours</i>	<i>theirs</i>

Verb Inflections

2nd Person Familiar

- adds the ending *-est*, *-’st*, or *st*
- examples: *thou givest*, *thou sing’st*

Verb Inflections

3rd Person Singular

- Substitutes *-th* for *-s*
- example: *she giveth* (for *she gives*)

Verb Inflections: Irregular Verbs

Modern Present	<i>You</i>	<i>are</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>will</i>
Elizabethan Present	<i>Thou</i>	<i>art</i>	<i>hast</i>	<i>wilt</i>
Elizabethan Past	<i>Thou</i>	<i>wast</i>	<i>hadst</i>	<i>wouldst</i>

Verb Inflections: Irregular Verbs

Modern Present	<i>You</i>	<i>can</i>	<i>shall</i>	<i>do</i>
Elizabethan Present	<i>Thou</i>	<i>canst</i>	<i>shalt</i>	<i>dost</i>
Elizabethan Past	<i>Thou</i>	<i>couldst</i>	<i>shouldst</i>	<i>didst</i>

Transformation Practice

1. Why do you have a pumpkin in your locker?
2. Are you and your friend pumpkin thieves?