

Summat: Somewhat, or something. Now used mainly in Yorkshire. “Aye, I’ve had summat to eat.”

Sweeting, sweetin’: An endearment. “Wilt company me, sweetin’?”

Tarry: To wait, to be delayed: “We ha’e tarried overlong.”

Tidings: News: “I bring thee glad tidings!”

’Tis: It is.

T’other: The other.

Troth: Faith, pledge: “--by my troth,” is similar to, “-honestly.” Betrothal still means a pledge of marriage. Closely related to *truth*.

’Twas: It was.

’Tween: Between.

’Twere: It were, or it would be. Use this one carefully: ’twere better not to use it at all than to use it poorly.

’Twixt: Betwixt. An older and more colorful form of between.

Unto: To.

Verily: Truly. Alternates: **In sooth, soothly.**

Water: Broaden the *a* sound, so it rhymes with *batter*. But aspirate the *t*, so it’s “watter,” rather than the American “wadder.”

Ween: Estimate or reckon. “’Twere summat past midday, I ween...” Variant form from **weet**.

Welkin: The sky: “They cheered fit to make the welkin ring.” (From Anglo-Saxon *wealcan*, to roll, and *wolke*, cloud.)

Wench: A young woman.

Wenching: Carousing with women.

Wherefore: Why.

Whilst: While. Also **whiles**. (*Whilst* is still used frequently in England.)

Willy-nilly: Whether he wills it or not: “They took him, willy-nilly, to the magistrate.” (From will-he, nill-he.)

Wise: A way of doing something. “They proceeded in this wise e’en until ’twas finished.”

Wot: Knew (past tense of *weet*): “I wot not whence he came...”

Wreak: To perform a work, to make or destroy: “See what I have wrought.” Root of *wright*.

Yare: Nimble, brisk. “Fall to, yarely, lads!”

Yea: Yes. Often used with an affirmation, as, “Yea, verily,” or, “Yea, in sooth...” Also **aye**.

Yestere’en, yesternight: Last night.

Zounds!: By God’s wounds! A mildly blasphemous exclamation. (Correctly, you should pronounce it, “Zwounds!” Marlowe preferred the more phonetic spelling, “swouns.”)