

FUMC ESL 4-11-2019 Advanced Lesson

William Shakespeare, the 16th century playwright, gave us over 1,700 words that were new to the English language. He brought in loan words from other languages, gave nouns a verb or adjective form, put compound words together from existing single words and used prefixes creatively to create new words.

Note: *Loan words are words borrowed from other languages. Compound words are made from two other words (bedroom, shutdown). Prefixes are letters added in front of a word to make a new word (empower, uncertain). Suffixes are added at the end (confession, engagement)*

For example, elbow was a noun in English, Shakespeare turned it into a verb, elbowed. He combined lack and luster to give us lackluster, arch and villain to give us arch-villain, hot and blood to give us hot-blooded, and the same with cold-blooded. He added prefixes to give us premeditated, bedazzled and disheartened. Engage is a loan word from France that Shakespeare added a suffix to to form engagement. Banditti is an Italian word which Shakespeare modified to bandit.

Here are example sentences using the "new" words above. Read the sentence and explain the meaning of Shakespeare's word.

elbowed: Jim elbowed his way through the masses of people to get to the ticket window.

lackluster: It was a disappointing and lackluster performance by all the actors.

hot-blooded: He rose and gave a hot-blooded defense of his character after being assailed (attacked with criticism) by the speaker. The senator was always known as a hot-blooded, passionate defender of the rights of women. The hot-blooded teenager gave his girlfriend a passionate kiss.

cold-blooded and **premeditated:** How the polite young man she knew could have committed such a cold-blooded murder was a mystery. Especially since it was premeditated. He had apparently been planning the crime for months.

bedazzled: Her sparkling personality absolutely bedazzled the interviewer.

disheartened: The community was disheartened to hear that a granite quarry was planned just a mile from their homes.

engagement: I'm sorry I can't attend your party. I have a previous engagement. We are having dinner to celebrate my daughter's engagement to her long time boyfriend.

bandit: The bandit stopped the stage coach and demanded everyone's cash, watch and rings.

In addition to words, Shakespeare gave us many sayings that we use commonly today.

1. wild goose chase: My search for that particular tool was a wild goose chase as it appears they don't make it any more.

Describe a wild goose chase you went on.

2. a sorry sight: After five days camping on the river I was a sorry sight. I looked forward to a hot shower and clean clothes.

3. seen better days: I rummaged in my grandmother's closet for a raincoat, but all of her coats had seen better days.

What do you have that has seen better days?

4. come full circle: I worked in the kitchen of a restaurant in my youth and now that I'm retired, I'm volunteering in a soup kitchen. My life has come full circle.

What will you volunteer to do when you retire? Is it something related to the job you did before retirement?

5. set your teeth on edge: It sets my teeth on edge to hear someone describing their surgery. There are some things that are better left unsaid.

What kinds of things set your teeth on edge?

6. snatched out of the jaws of death: To snatch someone from the jaws of death is to rescue them suddenly from doom. It is frequently used humorously, not literally. EX: I arrived late to my English class for the fifth time and knew my teacher would punish me. But when I arrived, I found out the teacher was out sick and the substitute had not yet arrived to take roll. I was snatched from the jaws of death.

Talk about a time you were snatched from the jaws of death either literally or humorously.

7. too much of a good thing: Be sure you don't take more than the recommended dose of your vitamin D supplements. It can be too much of a good thing if you develop liver problems.

Describe a time when you have had too much of a good thing.

8. vanish into thin air: I don't believe in UFO's, but it's hard to explain how several fast moving blips on our radar simply vanished into thin air.

How do you feel about UFO sightings?

9. send him packing: After my boss discovered my co-worker was stealing, he sent him packing.

10. good riddance: My boss fired him and I said, "Good riddance." That guy had been trouble from day one.