

"To be, or not to be." –William Shakespeare

You may not realize it, but we use or hear famous Shakespearean quotations everyday. Such as:

"brave new world"

"What the dickens"

"I'll not budge an inch"

"We have seen better days"

"A dish fit for the gods"

"Greek to me"

"fair play"

"foregone conclusion"

"one fell swoop"

"into thin air"

"to thine own self be true"

So quotes from Will Shakespeare have now become household words - and just to emphasize the point "household word" is also one of the Bard's *anonymous* quotations!

Did you know William's nickname is "The Bard of Avon?" A bard is another word for poet, and William is one of the greatest poets in the world. Therefore, he is known as "The Bard." "Of Avon" is added to this name because William was born in Stratford-upon-Avon. When the two names are put together, William's nickname becomes "The Bard of Avon."

The United Kingdom is comprised of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. It is important not only to be aware of these geographical distinctions, but also the strong sense of identity and nationalism felt by the populations of these four nations.

The terms 'English' and 'British' do not mean the same thing. 'British' denotes someone who is from England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. 'English' refers to people from England. People from Scotland are 'Scots', from Wales 'Welsh' and from Northern Ireland 'Irish'. Be sure not to call someone Welsh, Scots, or Northern Irish 'English'.

As for the weather in *England* -more than one-half of the days are overcast.

Sources: William-shakespeare.info, imahero.com, kwintessential.com, wikipedia.com