



## British Television Video Comprehension Lesson. – Auxiliar de Conversación



### Today's topic: William Shakespeare

For this activity, you are going to learn about a famous poet and playwright called **William Shakespeare**. You need to watch **THREE** video clips about Shakespeare.

You will need to watch the following clips:

- First Video: British Council- <http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/william-shakespeare>
- Second Video: YouTube (BBC) - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhEQDKZxvZY&list=RDhAhEQDKZxvZY&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhEQDKZxvZY&list=RDhAhEQDKZxvZY&start_radio=1) (CBeebies: Who is William Shakespeare?)
- Third video: YouTube (BBC)- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJK5ku-iNIE> (CBBC: All Over the Place – 'Shakespeare' Song)

Once you have watched all three of the videos above, answer the questions below in FULL SENTENCES.

1. In which year and in which UK city was William Shakespeare born?
2. How many siblings (brothers and/or sisters) did Shakespeare have? Were they older or younger than him?
3. According to the first video, what subjects did Shakespeare study at school? What was the name of his school (answer in second video)? At what age did he leave school?
4. (Second video 2:23min) Where did William Shakespeare's mother grow up?
5. (Second Video 2:50min) When Shakespeare was a child, he didn't drink cow's milk. From which farm animal did he get his milk from?
6. (First video) What was the name of William Shakespeare's wife? What are the names of his children?

7. (First video) In which year did London's first theatre open? What was Shakespeare's job in London? Why did theatres temporarily close in 1593?
  
8. According to the first video, William wrote a lot of short poems called *Sonnets*. Sonnets usually contain a lot of **metaphors**, such as "you are the light of my life," and **similes**. A simile is a figure of speech when you compare something to something else using 'like' or 'as.' An example would be, "the girl went to the party looking like a celebrity." Below, you will see a table with some ideas, and you need to turn them into similes. The first one has been done for you.

Idea	Simile
<b>Example:</b> Someone running very fast	He ran <u>as</u> fast <u>as</u> lightening in an electric storm.
1)Someone walking very slow	
2)Feeling lost	
3)Feeling excited	
4)Something very old	
5)Someone singing	

9. According to the third video (1:40min), how many sonnets did Shakespeare write?
  
10. (Frist video) Shakespeare helped build the Globe Theatre which still exists in London today. In which year did this theatre open? How many people could you fit in the Globe Theatre? In the third video (1:19min), it says that something happened to the Globe Theatre on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1613 resulting in the theatre having to be rebuilt in 1614. What happened to the theatre in 1613?
  
11. The videos mention that all the actors in Shakespeare's plays had something in common. What did they have in common? (Hint: their gender.)
  
12. Approximately how many plays did Shakespeare write? According to the first and third videos, what **three** types plays did William Shakespeare write? The videos give examples of Shakespeare's plays for each of the 3 categories. Can you give an example of a play for each of the categories?

13. (First video) When did William Shakespeare die? How old was he when he died?  
**INTERESTING FACT:** Shakespeare died on his birthday. Nobody knows why he died but historians believe he died because he drank too much wine and ate too many pickled herrings (*ES: arenques en escabeche*).

14. (Third video – 1:54min) When William Shakespeare died, in his Will (*ES: testamento*) he left land, horses and stables to his two sons-in-law. What did he leave to his wife? Do you think this is an odd thing to leave for his wife? Why do you think this was all he left her? Come up with a theory.

#### **EXTRA INFORMATION:**

William Shakespeare is known not just for being the amazing playwright that he is, but also for inventing new words and phrases which we still use today. In fact, the Oxford Dictionary believes he invented almost 3,000 words that we still use today. In the 3 videos that you have watched, it mentions a few phrases and words that he is known for. Here are some:

- Sleep tight
- Fair play
- All's well that ends well
- For goodness sake
- Full circle
- Good riddance
- It was Greek to me
- Heart of gold
- In a pickle
- Kill with kindness
- Lie low
- Love is blind
- Not slept one wink
- As good luck would have it
- Be-all and the end-all
- Break the ice
- Fool's paradise
- For goodness' sake
- Knock, knock... who's there?