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English Has Come A Long, Long Way...

By David Leonhardt

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by: **David Leonhardt**

I often wonder what would happen if Shakespeare were to be transported in a time machine to our world today. What would he think? How would he react?

Yes, Willie would probably tell me "thou hast too much time on thy hands if thou spendeth it wondering about such flights of fancy." But only after he found his feet.

You see, Willie would be blown away by some of the comforts we take for granted. For instance, that box we walk into. The doors close all by themselves...just like magic. When they open, we are magically in a different place.

"What callest thou this contraption?" Willie would ask in utter amazement.

An elevator. You would think nothing would phase a man who just landed his time machine 400 years into the future.

"Ah, I see. It was not magic after all. It elevated us, because it is an elevator."

This Willie guy is pretty handy with his English, isn't he? But that won't get him far these days. A hundred years ago, even fifty, he could have figured out just about every new word by tracing its roots (often to Greek or Latin). But not today.

"What are those...those...those, things?"

Why that's a TV, with a VCR and a DVD player. Over there, it's a CD player, an AM and FM radio and an amp. This is a PC, with CDRW and floppy drives, a powerful CPU, A and C drive, and more RAM than a MAC.

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"What? Thy alphabet seems a bit confusing."

Once upon a time, the meaning of a word could always be guessed by simply tracing the etymology of the word back to its lowest roots.

"Thou meanest 'etymology', dost thou not? Entomology is the study of insects and bugs."

I knew that.

I took out a 'Kleenex' because my nose was running.

"But how dost thy nose run?"

I suppose the same way I drivest on a parkway and parkest in the driveway. Or how it doesn't matter

whether we fill in a form or fill out a form...either way, the taxman gets the last laugh.

I offered to take Willie for a ride.

"That is more like it. There is nothing quite like a horse under one's bottom.'

No, no, no. We don't ride horses anymore. That is a barbaric way to treat such majestic beasts. Now we drive cars...and kill the horses off with the exhaust.

"I have no idea what you are talking about."

Just have a seat in the BMW, Willie, while I turn on the AC and rev up the RPMs on this old V6. Before you know it, we'll be doing 100 mph down the 102.

"More letters and numbers. Have words become redundant in the future?"

Pretty much. As life got more and more complicated, words got more and more complicated. Pretty soon it was taking several minutes just to pronounce a single government department. So real word groups had to be replaced by acronyms - the first letter of each word. Pass me a CANDY.

"What does CANDY stand for?"

Candy, actually. But maybe I should just leave old Willie guessing. After all, there is just so much to discover in this brave new world. Like why there are so few sundials around. And why some people sleep on the street, while other climb 34 stories to an office tower above to sleep at their desks. And just how do they shrink those liquor bottles for the airlines.

"What is an RSVP? And ASAP? And TLC?"

I had to find just the right way to explain to him that all these crazy letters actually made some kind of

sense.

Internal Department of Income Overhaul Transfer Systems.

"Ah, IDIOTS. Now, that I understand!"

Like Shakespeare, David Leonhardt is a writer: He is author of:
Inspiration & Motivation To Go:

The Get Happy Workbook:

and Climb Your Stairway to Heaven: the 9 habits of maximum happiness:

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English speaking and foreigners

By Ransy Reynis

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Sins I am a foreigner and English is not my language I would like to tell you about how I write and read articles. When I write article I sometimes have to write them in Norwegian and translate them in to English even if Norwegian is not my language I have been living for so many years in Norway that speaking and writing in Norwegian all the time, has made it difficult for me writing in my own language. When I have finish writing article that I would like to post I always kopi the article and past it into program call Read Please so that I can hear it, because I understand English much better when I hear it then reading it and I some times have problems concentrate when I am reading. I always kopi interesting articles that I would like to read into the same program. Listening to it and reading it at the same time has help me learn English much faster. It also helps me concentrate better when I can hear it and read it at the same time. It is a lot of work writing first in Norwegian and then translates it into English but I love writing so I don't mind doing it. So if there are a lot of foreigners like me writing articles out there I recommend that you try this program it is totally free and it has help me learn speaking and writing English. I think this program can help English speaking persons too, especially if you have problems with concentration while you are reading. (This is not an advertisement for Read Please there are lot of others free programs like this that you can use) After I started using this program it has been much easier to concentrate reading article when I listen at the same time as I reed them. I hope this is of help to someone out there.

Thank you for reading this article Ransy Reynis

Ransy Reynis is an Independent Wealth Builder and a Webdesigner. Helping individuals earn career incomes from home.

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