

Verb Endings and Constructions

Explain where the inflectional form of the italicized verbs came from. (The section on “Endings for Person and Number,” pp. 190-92 in *OED*, might come in handy! For the last four, you might also consult the *OED* entry on the verb of being.)

1. Thou hotly *lusts* to vse her in that kind, for which thou *whip'st* her. (*King Lear*, IV.vi)
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2. Sometimes she *driueth* ore a Souldiers necke, & then *dreames* he of cutting Forraine throats. (*Romeo and Juliet*, I.iv)
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3. His teares *runs* downe his beard like winters drops
From eaves of reeds: your charm so strongly works 'em
That if you now beheld them, your affections
Would become tender. (*The Tempest*, V.i)
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4. Where is thy Husband now? Where *be* thy Brothers?
Where *be* thy two Sonnes? Wherin dost thou Ioy? (*Richard III*, IV.iv)
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5. I suppose you *was* in a dream. (Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress*)
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6. For all the Welchman hearing thou *wert* dead,
Are gone to Bullingbrooke, disperst, and fled. (*Richard II*, III.ii)
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7. Thou *was't* borne of woman. (*Macbeth*, V.vii)

(Examples from *Problems in the Origins and Development of the English Language*, 7th ed. Wadsworth Cengage, 2014.)