

Word 4 Word What a piece of work is a man Part 2

I have of late, but
wherefore I know not, lost all my mirth, forgone all
custom of exercises, and, indeed, it goes so heavily
with my disposition that this goodly frame, the
Earth, seems to me a sterile promontory; this most
excellent canopy, the air, look you, this brave o'erhanging
firmament, this majestical roof, fretted
with golden fire—why, it appeareth nothing to me
but a foul and pestilent congregation of vapors.

What a piece of work is a man, how noble in
reason, how infinite in faculties, in form and moving
how express and admirable; in action how like
an angel, in apprehension how like a god: the
beauty of the world, the paragon of animals—and
yet, to me, what is this quintessence of dust? Man
delights not me, no, nor women neither

I trust that you have now memorized the skeleton of this marvellous speech. Now fill in the extra words. I will cover them all, but I think you will find some bits that will fit very naturally around your keywords. To remind you, you are not learning line by line but thought by thought with their embellishments.

Even if it is not a keyword it is always a good idea to begin by focusing on the opening line of a speech.

I have of late,

but

wherefore I know not,

lost all my mirth,

I have - Hamlet sitting on the 'lav' - lavatory - silly image but memorable.

of late, - when you are trying to come up with an image for a word, relax, close your eyes, and see what your brain comes up with. You may well disagree with the images that popped up for me, and you probably will, as they are plucked from *my* imagination and experience, not yours, but I will describe how I got to them which I hope will help you create your own pictures. Initially, I try out 'sounds like' as this is always very helpful in getting the right word. So **late**, gave me **plate**. Then I had a picture of the white rabbit from Alice in Wonderland with his watch muttering 'I'm late, I'm late'. The meaning of the word in this context is recent but that does not help me; so I end up with the scene of Hamlet sitting on the 'lav' spinning plates, and if I need it, I will have the rabbit rushing by anxiously consulting a huge watch.

but

wherefore I know not,

But – he stubs out a cigarette in a water butt.

Wherefore I – for ‘where’ I use a werewolf and ‘fore’, both common words, with ‘for’ I always use a golfer shouting ‘fore’.

The werewolf hits a glass eyeball (**I**) which wizzes by Hamlet

know not – for ‘know’ I use a sounds-like ‘snow’, so the eyeball buries itself in a bank of snow. For ‘not’ I would use a physical knot in a rope, but I doubt that you will need it here.

lost all my mirth,

You have already learned **mirth** as a keyword. If you need the rest of this phrase, think of the werewolf who has **lost** his **eyeball** in the snow.

The beginning of this speech is so well known that you probably won’t need this scene at all to set you off, but it is so daft, I doubt that you could forget it. It also has humour, naughty, action and sound - if you imagine plates crashing, the ssss of the cigarette butt in the water butt, and the whizz of the flying eyeball.

2. *forgone all
custom of exercises,*

Scene 2 – Hamlet changes into golf shoes, shouts ‘**Fore**’ as he hits a **gong**. The **ball** bounces off into a **customs** official who is **exercising** in **custard**.

You probably will get custom, but I have added in the custard just to help out and make the scene more ridiculous. Lots of action with that ball.

3. *and, indeed,*

These are 2 of those wretched ‘filler’ words which have no strong image and yet will ‘glue’ a speech together. They are so common that all you need to do is to create an image, and you will find yourself using it so often, they will no longer be a problem.

I use ‘**ant**’ for ‘**and**’. It is a sound-like and a strong image.

Indeed. For ‘**In**’ I always use a pub ‘**Inn**’ and so for ‘**indeed**’ I will put a lawyer in a pub with a Deed concerning a dead (sound-like) man - signing a deed on a coffin in a pub.

Scene 3 – Hamlet follows a trail of ants into a pub where he signs a deed on top of a coffin.

it goes

For **it**, I use ‘**hit**’. A sound-like for a very common word which is a verb with action and sound.

For **go**, I always use the '**Go**' sign that road menders use so Hamlet hits the Go sign
so heavily

so is easy, just think of Julie Andrews singing 'a needle pulling thread'.

heavily – but it is the heavyweight Mohammed Ali sewing (or as I remember, Cassius Clay) and you could throw in a snatch of the song 'he ain't heavy, he's my brother'.

With my

I use a **sieve** a sound-like for **with** and a **pie** a sound-like for **my** so Ali takes a sieve and pushes a pie through it.

I doubt that you will need all these images, but they are there just in case.

Now the key word which you have already memorized.

Disposition

So leave the pub, find the tree with the discus player and throw a posy of flowers at him.

with my disposition

having described his mood Hamlet begins to list how it is affecting his outlook.

4. *that this*

More common words: I use '**hat**' for **that** and '**kiss**' for **this**.

Lift the hat to kiss a nun holding a wooden picture frame,

Choose another image for Good if you like. I always use a nun, and so it works for me. but you might prefer to use the image of Hamlet kissing Barbara Good from the 'Good Life' It is a long time ago, but I know the series is often still repeated on TV and just this past Christmas there was a 50-year celebration of the series.

goodly frame,

Keyword against 4,

*the **Earth**,*

seems to me – seam Tommy. '**To me**' happens three times in this speech so decide on the image you want to use for '**to me**'. I use Tommy and hear Elton John or the Who singing Pin Ball Wizard. I picture the boat (4 shape system) with Tommy sewing a seam or maybe it is a steamboat.

a sterile - **sterile** – Sterilise a **Stair Rail** on the boat or perhaps going up the promontory.

promontory; - **Prom Mont Tory** an image of a **Prom** Queen in her glamorous frock, climbing up the **mount** or the **Tor** which is a hill or a rocky peak and add a **Tory** (use whatever image will give you a well-known **Tory**).

5. *this most
excellent canopy,*

this - Kiss

most - post

In my glossary, I have an image of my granddaughter Emily for M, so whenever she appears in a scene then I know the word will begin with M. If you wish to do the same then choose a person you know, or a famous person or character called Emily or Emma. Often, this will not be necessary as the context will tell you what the word should be, but having an image for capital letters can be useful.

Excellent - Eggs Sell lent.

Canopy - Can of Peas

Kiss the post then sell the eggs and the can of peas.

Keyword against 5

the **air**,

look you,

That is useful as 5 is a hook, so now use it to catch a sheep-ewe

this brave - kiss a red Indian

o'erhanging - oar hanging (in the air)

firmament, - fur ma mint

this majestic roof, - kiss Ma Jester/ Majesty/Coal/Ruth on a roof.

Fretted with golden fire— fretsaw/sieve/gold/fire

This is a wonderful but complicated set of images. I have given pictures for it all as I cannot tell what will stick with you.

An Indian hanging on to an oar with ma in a fur coat sucking a mint on the other end. She kisses a jester who is tipping coal off a roof -

He takes a fretsaw cutting holes which show golden fire.

Thank goodness all these silly pictures fade away when you remember and quote this wonderful description of a night sky. Then Hamlet drags us down to earth with

why, it appeareth— wire, hit a pear wreath. On checking this over, I used appears and so I am adding in the wreath to give me appeareth.

nothing to me - Snow Thing: Puffin: Stuffing: Muffin /Tommy

with a wire, hit a pear into the snow or a puffin's mouth, which is picked up by Tommy -

but a foul and pestilent— butt a **fowl** and **pest** - nasty disease amongst chickens but useful for remembering this phrase

congregation of vapors - church **congregation** rubbing chickens with **vapour** rub.

Now he describes his thoughts on mankind generally

6. *What a piece of work is a man*, - pot of peas for a werewolf (this will give you the 'were' sound for 'work' and add it to a road sign for men at work use the song too - and add the Man to the picture. This is such a well-known sentence that you will probably not need this scene to help your memory at all.

7. *how noble in reason*, - keyword 7 noble - noblemen eating raisins.

8. *how infinite in faculties*, - keyword 8 faculties - Marylyn Monroe being chased by a shark (**infinite** inn fin (shark) knight) if you want you could add the menacing 'de dum' music from Jaws.

9. *in form and moving how express and admirable*; keywords against 9, remember the balloon helping to move the form.

10. *in action how like an angel* - keyword angel being helped by **action man**

11. *in apprehension how like a god*: apples, preschool, hen, shun (soldiers). The key word is **god** but because of the context and that the phrase was relatively complicated compared to the others in the list, I covered **apprehension** in the skeleton, so you probably will already have the scene of the football team with apples and a hen making a guard of honour and standing to attention for the god.

12. *the beauty of the world*, 12 keyword **beauty** asleep next to a globe of the **world** on a shelf.

13. *the paragon of animals*— keyword **animals** and again I covered the **paragon** with an image of parachuters hurting (13) themselves as they land in a vet's surgery.

the list has built up to its climax and now it drops into the dust.

14. *and yet, to me*, - ant yeti tommy

what is this quintessence of dust? - *what is this* - pot kiss -

15. *Man delights not me, no* – keyword **delights** against 15 lifting, so *Man as a weight lifter drops the Turkish Delight* – not me – sounds a bit like Noddy, so you could think of Noddy the puppet or Noddy Holder from Slade - in the snow

16. *nor women neither*, keyword woman against 16 kitchen, so *gnaw* goes well with that scene – neither. Neither and nor pair together quite naturally.

I have just checked this through and got most of it the first time. Interestingly, it is those small, ordinary words that trip you up. I made a mistake in the first line when I wanted to put ‘and wherefore’ rather than ‘but’. So, I make stronger the image of the cigarette butt hissing in the water butt.

Number 5 ‘the air’ is the most complicated part and you may well want to pick out a few more keywords to help you: I forgot ‘eggs sell’ for excellent so I added in an axe (ex) to chop down the post

this most

excellent canopy, the air, look you, this brave o’erhanging

firmament, this majestic roof, fretted

with golden fire—why, it appeareth nothing to me

and now we are home and dry with the ludicrous picture of a church full of chickens having vapour rubs.

but a foul and pestilent congregation of vapors.

This is a good example when memorising of spending time focusing on the most challenging parts of what we want to learn.

Good luck with this and enjoy quoting it though I hope, not in the pouring rain.