Tips for reading/understanding Shakespeare

**Pronouns:**

* Thee, thou – you
* Ye – you plural
* Thy, thine – your
* Mine – my

**Verbs:**

* Lovest – love
* Hadst – had
* Told’st – told – just drop the ending on these
* Slayeth – slew

**Contractions:**

(all contractions are used to cut out a syllable, just read it as if the full word was there)

* Smok’d – smoked
* Ne’er – never
* Fac’d – faced
* Compell’d – compelled
* Done ‘t – done it
* ‘tis – it is
* o’ – of
* i’ – in

**Other Words:**

* ere – before
* art – are
* alas – unfortunately
* wilt – will
* anon – right now
* doth/dost – does
* hath – has

**Word Order:**

(result of writing in verse – wants to rhyme and keep the same rhythm)

* often words put in a different order than we’re used to - read the whole sentence, look for key words, rearrange it in your mind or on paper
  + “Are not/ Those in commission yet return’d?” (1.2.1-2)
  + Have those in charge not returned yet?
* Use side notes for uncommon words/ phrases