

Shakespeare

Bigger than me

Task 1

Watch the interview. Which **five** questions does James talk about?

1. Why do you like playing Shakespeare?
2. How did you become an actor?
3. When did you first become aware of Shakespeare?
4. Who does Shakespeare 'belong' to?
5. How does Shakespeare's verse work?
6. What do we know about Shakespeare's life?
7. How was English grammar different in Shakespeare's time?
8. How did Shakespeare use vocabulary?

Task 2

Watch the interview again. Choose the correct options.

1. According to James, acting in a Shakespeare play gives you the chance to play characters which
 - a) are very unusual
 - b) everyone can understand
 - c) are bigger than yourself

2. James first heard Shakespeare at home because his ... used to quote Shakespeare a lot.
 - a) father
 - b) grandfather
 - c) uncle

3. Shakespeare wanted his plays to entertain
 - a) upper-class people
 - b) middle-class people
 - c) all kinds of people

4. Shakespeare's theatre was called The Globe because
 - a) the building had a circular shape
 - b) the plays were set in many different countries
 - c) the actors came from many different countries

5. A typical line of Shakespeare's verse has ... stresses.
 - a) ten
 - b) five
 - c) two

6. Shakespeare often uses expressions with two similar words
 - a) to help everyone in the audience to understand
 - b) to make his language more powerful
 - c) to give each line the correct number of stresses

Task 3

Use the correct words to complete James's description of Shakespeare's verse.

line / beats / verse / stress / foot

Shakespeare's plays are often put into a specific _____ structure, which we call the iambic pentameter. That sounds very complicated. It isn't! 'Iambic' just means that it's got two _____, / *Am*, with the _____ on the second part, / *Am*. But they

are in a 'pentameter', that's a five-_____ line, so in each _____ of the verse, it goes *I Am, I Am, I Am, I Am, I Am*. Very simple.

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Answers

Task 1

1. Why do you like playing Shakespeare?
3. When did you first become aware of Shakespeare?
4. Who does Shakespeare 'belong' to?
5. How does Shakespeare's verse work?
8. How did Shakespeare use vocabulary?

Task 2

1. c) are bigger than yourself
2. b) grandfather
3. c) all kinds of people
4. b) the plays were set in many different countries
5. b) five
6. a) to help everyone in the audience to understand

Task 3

Shakespeare's plays are often put into a specific verse structure, which we call the iambic pentameter. That sounds very complicated. It isn't! 'Iambic' just means that it's got two beats, / *Am*, with the stress on the second part, / *Am*. But they are in a 'pentameter', that's a five-foot line, so in each line of the verse, it goes / *Am*, / *Am*, / *Am*, / *Am*, / *Am*. Very simple.