

## Oxford English Dictionary Exercise

A. Shakespeare's Sonnet 130 "My Mistress' Eyes"

B.

Look up the following words, first noting how many definitions exist for each word. If definitions are given for the word's use in various parts of speech, give a separate example of each. Note: "substantive" (sb.) means noun. If a usage label follows the definition, explain what it means, i.e., "obs." Means obsolete—no longer used in English speech.

1. Reeks. Of the verb (v), not substantive forms, which is the most appropriate definition for your understanding of the sonnet? Which definition do the editors favour? Give evidence to back up your answer.

2. Dun

3. She

C. Donne "The Canonization"

1. Reall 2. die 3. spy (as noun)

D. Milton "Sonnet 7"

E.

Look up in the OED "subtle", "career", "endue". Which of the meanings of each is being used in Sonnet 7? How have the words changed meaning in modern usage?

D. Shakespeare "Sonnet 25"

1. Explain the syntax (word order) of the first four lines. What is the subject of the verb "boast"?

2. What is the nature of the contrast between the speaker and those upon whom fortune shines?

3. Look up in OED "painful", "famoused", "foiled", and "razed." Which have changed in meaning since S's time? Which are puns?