

HANDOUT 1

THE SECOND PERSON FAMILIAR / VERB INFLECTIONS

Modern English has dropped a set of pronouns and verbs called the "familiar" or *thee* and *thou* forms once used among close friends and family and to children, inferiors, animals, and inanimate objects. These old forms did, though, survive into Elizabethan England, and they appear frequently in Shakespeare. They correspond roughly to the *tu* forms of the Romance languages, the *ty* forms of the Slavic languages, the *su* forms of Greek, and the *kimi* forms of Japanese.

Familiar Pronouns

	SINGULAR PRONOUNS			PLURAL PRONOUNS		
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
Subject	<i>I</i>	<i>thou</i>	<i>he/she/it</i>	<i>we</i>	<i>ye</i>	<i>they</i>
Object	<i>me</i>	<i>thee</i>	<i>him/her/it</i>	<i>us</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>them</i>
Possessive Adjective	<i>my</i> <i>mine*</i>	<i>thy</i> <i>thine*</i>	<i>his/her/</i> <i>its</i>	<i>our</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>their</i>
Possessive Noun	<i>mine</i>	<i>thine</i>	<i>his/hers/</i> <i>its</i>	<i>ours</i>	<i>yours</i>	<i>theirs</i>

*Substitute forms used before a noun beginning with a vowel

Verb Inflections

2ND PERSON FAMILIAR

Adds the ending *-est*, *-'st*, or *st*

Example: *thou givest*, *thou sing'st*

SOME IRREGULAR VERBS

Present: *you* *are* *have* *will* *can* *shall* *do*
Present: *thou* *art* *hast* *wilt* *canst* *shalt* *dost*
Past: *thou* *wast* *hadst* *wouldst* *couldst* *shouldst* *didst*

THIRD PERSON SINGULAR

Often substitutes *-th* for *-s*

Example: *she giveth* (for *she gives*)