



Archaism

An archaism is a word or expression that is no longer regularly used, or which is only used in specific fields or studies. The word comes from the Greek word *archaikós*, which means "ancient." Although archaisms aren't often used anymore, they are still used. Words that are no longer ever used at all are referred to as being obsolete.

Some places where you are likely to encounter archaisms are:

- Older literature – for example, since Shakespeare wrote his plays in the language of his day, it contains many words and phrases which are archaisms to us
- The legal field – words commonly encountered in legal documents, like *heretofore*, *hereunto*, and *thereof* are all archaisms.

DIRECTIONS: Underline the archaism in each sentence.

1. Alas, he broke his leg.
2. I daresay, this pudding is outstanding.
3. Methinks I will have a popsicle.
4. Will you perchance join me this evening?
5. Lo and behold, the cat's at the door.