

Archaism

An archaism, also called archaic diction, 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.” Archaisms exist because language is always evolving. Thus, the language that we find in older literary works, such as those from the medieval, Victorian, and Edwardian ages, and even the 19th and 20th centuries, differs in some ways from the language that we speak today. 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.

DIRECTIONS: Read the lines from “Ode to Autumn” by John Keats. Write an archaism on each line below. When write what you think each archaism you identified means.

“Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind; ...

Archaism

What does it mean?
