

## AP English Literature and Composition Analyzing Syntax in *Hamlet*

Examine the *syntax* of the following scene from *Hamlet*.

1. Mark specific examples of Shakespeare's use of syntax.
2. Identify the syntactic element [antithesis, capitalization, grammatical conventions (or lack therefore), parallelism, phrasing, punctuation, repetition, sentence structure, sentence type, spelling, word order].
3. Then, in the margins explain how these stylistic choices affect the meaning.
4. Finally, you will compose a timed response in which you analyze how the syntax of the passage (as well as other literary elements such as diction and tone) characterizes both Gertrude and Hamlet and reveals the conflict that exists between them that is central to the play's theme.

Hamlet. Now, mother, what's the matter?

Queen. Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended.

Hamlet. Mother, you have my father much offended.

Queen. Come, come, you answer with an idle tongue.

Hamlet. Go, go, you question with a wicked tongue.

Queen. Why, how now, Hamlet?

Hamlet. What's the matter now?

Queen. Have you forgot me?

Hamlet. No, by the rood, not so!

You are the Queen, your husband's brother's wife,

And—would it were not so—you are my mother.

Queen. Nay, then I'll set those to you that can speak.

Hamlet. Come, come, and sit you down, you shall not budge!

You will not go till I set you up a glass

Where you may see the inmost part of you.