

An Approximate Chronological List of the Shakespeare Canon:

Date	Work
1589-90	<i>1 Henry VI</i> (revised 1594-95)*
1590-91	<i>2 Henry VI</i> (published 1594)*†
1590-91	<i>3 Henry VI</i> (published 1595)*†
1592-94	<i>The Comedy of Errors</i> *
1592	<i>Venus and Adonis</i> (Poem, published 1593)
1592-93	<i>Richard III</i> ("bad" quarto 1597)*†
1593-94	<i>The Rape of Lucrece</i> (Poem, published 1609)
1592-94	<i>Titus Andronicus</i> (first published 1594)†
1593-94	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> (1594)*†
1594	<i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> *
1593-1600	Sonnets (published 1609)
1594-95	<i>Love's Labor's Lost</i> (probably revised in 1595 or 1597; published 1598)
1594-96	<i>King John</i> *
1595	<i>Richard II</i> (published 1597)
1595-96	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> (published 1599; 1597†)
1595-96	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
1596-97	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> (published in 1600)
1597-1601	<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> * (revised 1600-01; 1602†)
1597	<i>1 Henry IV</i> (published 1598)
1598	<i>2 Henry IV</i> (published 1600)
1598-99	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
1599	<i>Henry V</i> (published 1600)
1599	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
1599	<i>As You Like It</i>
1600-01	<i>Hamlet</i> (published 1604; 1603†)
1600-01	<i>The Phoenix and the Turtle</i> (poem)
1601-02	<i>Twelfth Night</i> *
1601-02	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i> (published 1609)
1602-03	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i> *
1604	<i>Othello</i> (published 1622)
1604	<i>Measure for Measure</i> *
1605	<i>King Lear</i> (published 1608)
1606	<i>Macbeth</i> *
1606-07	<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> *
1607-08	<i>Timon of Athens</i> (published 1609)
1607-08	<i>Coriolanus</i> *
1607-08	<i>Pericles</i>
1609-10	<i>Cymbeline</i> *
1610-11	<i>The Winter's Tale</i> *
1611	<i>The Tempest</i> *
1612-13	<i>Henry VIII</i>
1612-13	<i>Cardenio</i> (a lost play)
1613	<i>The Two Noble Kinsmen</i> , with Fletcher (published 1634)

*Some of the surviving texts were part of the "First Folio," published in 1623. The "First Folio" included some thirty-six plays, and the editor took some care in the selection and accuracy of his texts, or at least more care than those texts that were part of the quartos published in other years.

†Some of the surviving texts were part of a "bad" quarto printing. A bad quarto is a copy of the play that a disloyal actor would recreate from memory and then submit for publication in a rival publishing house without the consent of the author. These bad quartos are often grossly inaccurate, but many contain useful stage directions lacking in the original text.