

Chronological Order of when the plays were written

Play	Published
<i>Titus Andronicus</i>	*1588
<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>	*[1623]
<i>Love's Labor's Lost</i>	*1590
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	*1592
<i>Henry VI, Part 1</i>	[1623]
<i>Henry VI, Part 2</i>	1593?
<i>Henry VI, Part 3</i>	1593?
<i>Richard III</i>	*1594
<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	[1623]
<i>Comedy of Errors</i>	*[1623]
<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	*1595
<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>	*1596
<i>King John</i>	*[1623]
<i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i>	1596
<i>Richard II</i>	*1597
<i>Henry IV, Part 1</i>	*1597
<i>Henry IV, Part 2</i>	1598
<i>Henry V</i>	1600
<i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>	1601
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	[1623]
<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>	[1623]
<i>As You Like It</i>	[1623]
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	[1623]
<i>Hamlet</i>	1603
<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	1606

Play	Published
<i>Henry VIII</i>	[1623]
<i>All's Well that Ends Well</i>	[1623]
<i>Measure for Measure</i>	[1623]
<i>Pericles</i>	1609
<i>King Lear</i>	1608
<i>Macbeth</i>	[1623]
<i>Coriolanus</i>	[1623]
<i>Timon of Athens</i>	[1623]
<i>Cymbeline</i>	[1623]
<i>The Winter's Tale</i>	[1623]
<i>The Tempest</i>	[1623]
<i>Othello</i>	1622

We can only guess at exactly which order Shakespeare wrote the plays:

The dates in pink brackets were those plays not published until 1623 in the First Folio, seven years after Shakespeare died, so we guess the dates they were written by using internal references (rarely unambiguous) or by style (always debatable).

The ones with asterisks * next to their dates are those mentioned in a book by Frances Meres, published in 1598, so of course they must have been written by then.

The black dates indicate plays that were published in Shakespeare's lifetime, so it is assumed they were written shortly before being published. But note that *Othello* is first published in 1622 (Shakespeare died in 1616).

Pericles is in gray because it is considered by many to be apocryphal in that it is not included in the First Folio of 1623.

So take the order with a grain of salt!