

PROLOGUE

Working with a partner, write a modern language translation of this famous prologue.

Text	Notes	Translation
Two households, both alike in dignity ,	dignity: social position	Two households of the same social position
In fair Verona , where we lay our scene ,	Verona: city in Italy scene: performance	The story happens in Verona
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny ,	grudge: hard feelings mutiny: riot, fight	Their hard feelings towards each other cause a fight
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.	civil: citizens'	Citizens are sinful
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes	from forth the fatal loins: the unfortunate children born	The unlucky children born from the two families
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;	star-cross'd: thwarted by bad luck	A pair of unlucky lovers take their own lives
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows	misadventured: unlucky overthrows: misfortunes	Whose unlucky misfortunes/events
Do with their death bury their parents' strife .	strife: conflict	With their death, the conflict ends
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,		They were bound to die once they fell in love
And the continuance of their parents' rage ,	rage: anger	The parents continued to be angry
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,	but: except for nought could: could not	Only their children's death could bring the conflict to an end
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;	traffic: story	The play is 2 hours long
The which if you with patient ears attend ,	attend: listen to	If you are patient enough to listen to
What here shall miss , our toil shall strive to mend .	what here shall miss: anything you might miss in this prologue toil: hard work strive: try mend: repair	Whatever you miss in the prologue, our acting shall show it

A **prologue** (*Greek* πρόλογος *prologos*, from the word *pro* (before) and *lógos*, word) is an opening to a story that establishes the setting and gives background details, often some earlier story that ties into the main one, and other miscellaneous information. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prologue>)