

SHAKESPEAREAN INSULTS



You too can speak Shakespeare! Nothing sounds more authentic than insults.

How to make an Insult

There are three columns on the other side of this page: A, B, and C. To make an insult, pick one word from each column and string them together.

For example, taking the first word in each column gives you the insult: "artless base-court apple-john."

How to use your Insults

- 1. Write a short, simple scene, or use the one below.
 - A: Hey!
 - B: Hello there.
 - A: Let me by, I have to cross this bridge. B: You can't.
 - A: Why not?
 - B: Because.
 - A: Cause why?
 - B: Cause there's a bear on the other side.
 - A: Why didn't you say so?
- 2. Pepper your scene with an many insults as you like.
 - A: Hey thou gorbellied, motley-minded hugger-mugger!
 - B: Hello there thou yeasty, clapper-clawed strumpet.
 - A: Let me by, thou frothy dizzy-eyed maggot pie. I have to cross this bridge.
 - B: You can't.
 - A: Why not?
 - B: Because, thou surly guts gripping harpy.
 - A: Cause why, thou dankish sheep biting pignut?
 - B: Cause there's a bear on the other side.
 - A: Why didn't you say so, thou mewling swagbellied footlicker?
- 3. Read them aloud.

Continued Over...

Shakespearean Insults

A B C

artless base-court apple-john bat-fowling bawdy baggage beef-witted beslubbering barnacle bootless beetle-headed bladder churlish boil-brained boar-pig cockered clapper-clawed bugbear clouted clay-brained bum-bailey craven common-kissing canker-blossom currish crook-pated clack-dish dankish dismal-dreaming clotpole c dissembling dizzy-eyed oxcomb doghearted codpiece droning errant dread-bolted death-token fawning earth-vexing dewberry elf-skinned fobbing flap-dragon froward fat-kidneved flax-wench frothy fen-sucked flirt-aill foot-licker gleeking flap-mouthed goatish fly-bitten fustilarian gorbellied folly-fallen giglet impertinent fool-born gudgeon infectious full-gorged haggard guts-griping jarring

harpy half-faced loggerheaded hedge-pig lumpish hasty-witted horn-beast hedge-born mammering hugger-mugger hell-hated iolthead mangled idle-headed mewling lewdster paunchy ill-breeding lout pribbling ill-nurtured maggot-pie puking knotty-pated malt-worm puny milk-livered mammet quailing motley-minded measle rank onion-eyed minnow reeky plume-plucked miscreant roguish pottle-deep moldwarp pox-marked mumble-news ruttish reeling-ripe nut-hook saucy spleeny ough-hewn pigeon-egg rude-growing spongy pignut surly rump-fed puttock tottering shard-borne pumpion

> ratsbane sheep-biting spur-galled scut swag-bellied skainsmate tardy-gaited strumpet tickle-brained varlet toad-spotted vassal urchin-snouted whey-face weather-bitten wagtail



unmuzzĪed

venomed

villainous

warped

weedy

yeasty

wayward

vain