

## SHAKESPEAREAN INSULTS

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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

artless  
bawdy  
beslubbering  
bootless  
churlish  
cockered  
clouted  
craven  
currish  
dankish  
dissembling  
droning  
errant  
fawning  
fobbing  
froward  
frothy  
gleeking  
goatish  
gorbellied  
impertinent  
infectious  
jarring  
loggerheaded  
lumpish  
mammering  
mangled  
mewling  
paunchy  
pribbling  
puking  
puny  
quailing  
rank  
reeky  
roguish  
ruttish  
saucy  
spleeny  
spongy  
surly  
tottering  
unmuzzled  
vain  
venomed  
villainous  
warped  
wayward  
weedy  
yeasty

### B

base-court  
bat-fowling  
beef-witted  
beetle-headed  
boil-brained  
clapper-clawed  
clay-brained  
common-kissing  
crook-pated  
dismal-dreaming  
dizzy-eyed  
doghearted  
dread-bolted  
earth-vexing  
elf-skinned  
fat-kidneyed  
fen-sucked  
flap-mouthed  
fly-bitten  
folly-fallen  
fool-born  
full-gorged  
guts-gripping  
half-faced  
hasty-witted  
hedge-born  
hell-hated  
idle-headed  
ill-breeding  
ill-nurtured  
knotty-pated  
milk-livered  
motley-minded  
onion-eyed  
plume-plucked  
pottle-deep  
pox-marked  
reeling-ripe  
ough-hewn  
rude-growing  
rump-fed  
shard-borne  
sheep-biting  
spur-galled  
swag-bellied  
tardy-gaited  
tickle-brained  
toad-spotted  
urchin-snouted  
weather-bitten

### C

apple-john  
baggage  
barnacle  
bladder  
boar-pig  
bugbear  
bum-bailey  
canker-blossom  
clack-dish  
clotpole c  
oxcomb  
codpiece  
death-token  
dewberry  
flap-dragon  
flax-wench  
flirt-gill  
foot-licker  
fustilarian  
giglet  
gudgeon  
haggard  
harpy  
hedge-pig  
horn-beast  
hugger-mugger  
jolthead  
lewdster  
lout  
maggot-pie  
malt-worm  
mammet  
measle  
minnow  
miscreant  
moldwarp  
mumble-news  
nut-hook  
pigeon-egg  
pignut  
puttock  
pumpion  
ratsbane  
scut  
skainsmate  
strumpet  
varlet  
vassal  
whey-face  
wagtail