

SHAKESPEAREAN INSULTS

by Lindsay Price

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 maggots 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...



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The Fine Print

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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
rough-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
coxcomb
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