

A Shakespearean glossary

albeit	although	hence	from here	still	always
anon	at once	how now	how are you	thee	you (<i>dir/dich</i>)
thou art	you are	in faith	indeed	thine	your/yours
aught	anything	in lieu of	in return for	thou	you (<i>du</i>)
ay	yes	marry	indeed	thy	your
thou dost	you do	mine	my/mine	'tis	it is
he doth	he does	nay	no	unto	to
ere	before	nought	nothing	withal	as well
fie	shame on you	pray	please	wont	used
forth	away from	sad	serious	yond	that one, over there
thou hast	you have	sirrah	Sir		
she hath	she has	soft	not so fast		

1 Using the table above, translate the following sentences into modern English:

a *In faith, there's nought in thy purse.*

b *How now, art thou well?*

c *Ay, he'll come here anon!*

d *Fie, get thee hence!*

e *Pray, why is she so sad?*

f *Let me look in thine eyes.*

2 Now put modern dialogue into Shakespeare's English, e.g.:

a *No, you have nothing to lose.* • **b** *Not so fast, we'll be there before noon.* •
c *Do you like her?*

3 With a partner, write a short dialogue in Shakespeare's English about an everyday situation, like going out for a coffee or choosing a film to watch.

It is fun to read parts of Shakespeare's plays aloud and accompany his lines with dramatic gestures, because his words are so powerful.

Task 1

Use Shakespeare's insults to create colourful curses. Choose two adjectives with a noun from the box below and use 'Thou art a ...' to address other students while walking around the room.

bed-presser • languageless • dunghill • unpolished • rabbit-sucker • tickle-brain •
 shrill-gorged • foul-spoken • marble-hearted • Banbury cheese • lack-brained • stock-fish •
 wasp-stung • simpering • foot licker • reeky • stretch-mouthed • onion-eyed • fat-kidneyed •
 hedge-pig • brazen • miscreant • clotpole • lily-livered • toad • beef-witted • lackbeard •
 eye-offending • rabbit sucker • greasy • gull-catcher • ill-composed • waterfly • dogfish

Task 2

In groups, prepare a dramatic reading of the following extracts. In a second round, switch characters and do the scene differently.

JULIET	Good father, I beseech you on my knees, (<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>, III, 5) Hear me with patience but to speak a word.
CAPULET	Hang thee, young baggage! Disobedient wretch! I tell thee what: get thee to church o' Thursday, Or never after look me in the face: Speak not, reply not, do not answer me; my fingers itch.

HAMLET	I did love you once. (<i>Hamlet</i>, III, 1)
OPHELIA	Indeed, my lord, you made me believe so.
HAMLET	You should not have believed me. [...] I loved you not.
OPHELIA	I was the more deceived.
HAMLET	Get thee to a nunnery: Why wouldst thou be a breeder of sinners?

FIRST WITCH	When shall we three meet again (<i>Macbeth</i> I, 1) In thunder, lightning, or in rain?
SECOND WITCH	When the hurlyburly's done, When the battle's lost and won.
THIRD WITCH	That will be ere the set of sun.
FIRST WITCH	Where the place?
SECOND WITCH	Upon the heath.
THIRD WITCH	There to meet with Macbeth. [...]
ALL	Fair is foul, and foul is fair: Hover through the fog and filthy air.