

Don't Swear—Curse like an Elizabethan!

Compliments of Patt Schwab, Ph.D.

Do you want to express your anger with a person or a situation without getting more angry yourself? Are you searching for a public expression of frustration that won't make parents with small children glare at you in restaurants? Or would you love to insult someone in a way that they will never forget?

You can do all three with literary panache by using the Elizabethan Insult List. Don't curse with today's tired swear words, use a little Shakespearian flair to tell that yeasty, toad-spotted varlet where to go. Combine one word from each of the three columns below, prefaced with the word "Thou" and have at it!

Column 1

artless
bawdy
beslubbering
bootless
churlish
cockered
clouted
craven
currish
dankish
dissembling
droning
errant
fawning
fobbing
froward
frothy
gleeking
goatish
gorbellied
guts-gripping
infectious

Column 2

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

Column 3

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
harpy