

## Handout 2

# *Shakespearean "Conversations"*

### 125 Odd Words

Don't bother trying to memorize these words. They were used rarely and most are archaic and obsolete. But they just sound terrific and are so descriptive. You might try to work them into everyday conversations to impress your friends

a-birding - hunt small birds

Absey book - a child's ABC book

Abruption - interruption

Aconitum - poisonous plant

a-ducking - swimming

ambuscado - ambush

annothanize - anatomize

applejohn - wrinkled apple

backbitten - infested with lice

banditto - outlaw

barber-monger - constant patron of barber shop

bawcock - fine fellow

beldam - old hag

bemoiled - soiled

beslubber - to smear

bodkin - dagger

boiled-brains - hotheaded youths

brabber - quarreler

bugbear - goblin

canker-blossom - worm in the bud

carbuncle - ruby

cataplasm - plaster of medicinal herbs

chop-fallen - dejected

chuff - boorish fellow

clapper-claw - to thrash or maul

clodpole - dunce

contumely - disdain

copulative - persons about to be married

corky - withered with age

cot-quean - man who meddles in women's  
business

coxcomb - crested cap of a professional fool

cubiculo - bedroom

dewlap - loose skin at the throat

dirt-rotten - putrefied

disannul - cancel

dotard - old fool

englut - to gulp down

exceptless - making no exceptions

exsufflicate - windy or overblown

facinerious - very wicked

fadge - work out

fancy-monger - a lovesick man

fardel - burden

fettle - to prepare

flax-wench - girl hired to dress flax

Flibbertigibbet - demon

flirt-gill - loose woman

flurled - cast aside

foppery - foolishness

frampold - disagreeable

fusty - stale, trite

fut - exclamation of impatience

garboil - tumult or disturbance

geck - fool

gibbet - gallows

giglot - wanton

haggish - like a hag

hobby-horse - buffoon

honorificabilitudinitatibus - being loaded with  
honors

hugger-mugger - secrecy

irregulous - lawless

jolthead - blockhead

## Handout 2

# *Shakespearean "Conversations"*

### 125 Odd Words continued...

kickshaw - sidedish  
kicky-wicky - term of endearment  
kill-courtesy - rude person  
ladder-tackle - rope ladder  
legerity - quickness  
lewdster - a lecher  
logger-headed - stupid  
lubberly - crude  
malapert - rude  
malkin - slut  
maltworm - heavy drinker  
mickle - great  
minikin - dainty  
minx - saucy wench  
mome - blockhead  
noddle - slang term for head  
noddy - simpleton  
nuthook - sheriff's deputy  
onion-eyed - tending to weep  
oppugnancy - utter chaos  
ouph - elf  
paraquito - small parrot  
periwig-pated - bewigged  
pestiferous - noxious  
pickthank - an informer  
pignut - peanut  
pismire - ant  
poop - infect with venereal disease  
prig - thief  
puttock - small hawk  
puzzel - slut  
questris - seeker  
rampallion - ruffian  
reechy - grimy  
relume - relight

rudesby - rude fellow  
'Sdeath - by God's death  
'Sfoot - by God's foot  
sheep-biter - sneaky fellow  
shog - to get going  
skains-mate - criminal  
skimble-skamble - nonsensical  
slubber - to do hastily and carelessly  
slug-a-bed - sleepyhead  
smatch - taste  
smilet - little smile  
sneaping - nipping  
stigmatical - deformed  
swoopstake - indiscriminately  
thought-sick - distressed  
thrasonical - boastful  
thwack - drive away  
tittle-tattle - gossip  
twire - to peep  
ungrown - immature  
unhaired - beardless  
vendible - marketable  
welkin - sky  
whirligig - a top  
wittol - cuckold  
ycleped - named  
zounds - by God's wounds  
zwaggered - bullied