Here is a curated list of **100 commonly found Shakespearean insults**, drawn from various lesson plans and public domain sources (like Shakespeare's plays). These are not modern insults but are original or lightly-adapted lines from Shakespeare's works that educators frequently use to teach Early Modern English, character voice, and wit.

As a teacher, feel free to use these as part of your of your Multimodal SAQ lesson plan to inject an element of fun into the debate or trail lesson. For example, as students debate, or present their arguments at trial, they could begin their address to the opposing team with an insult: "Student A, thou art an infectious, tickle-brained scut!" In rebuttal, Student B could reply with another insult from the list. And so on, one insult per exchange.

Feel free to use these independently of course, just to increase classroom engagement.

Shakespearean Insults

- "Thou hast not so much brain as ear wax!" *(Trolius & Cressida)*
- "Thou droning beef-witted lord!"
- "You speak an infinite deal of nothing." *(The Merchant of Venice)*
- "More of your conversation would infect my brain." *(Coriolanus)*
- "Thou fusty, elf-skinned minnow!"
- "Thou paunchy, reeling-ripe measel!"
- "Thou art a boil, a plague sore." *(King Lear)*
- "Thou infectious tickle-brained scut!"
- "Thou infectious common-kissing dogfish!"
- "Thou gorbellied boil-brained measle!"
- "Thy food is such as hath been belch'd upon by infected lungs." *(Pericles)*
- "Thou art the rankest compound of villainous smells that ever offended nostril."
- "Would thou wert clean enough to spit upon!" *(Timon of Athens)*

- "I'd beat thee but I would infect my hands." *(Timon of Athens)*
- "Out of my sight! Thou dost infect mine eyes." *(Richard III)*
- "Thou art as loathsome as a toad."
- "Thou art like a toad; ugly and venomous." *(As You Like It)*
- "Thou misbegotten toad-spotted hedge-pig!"
- "Thou crusty batch of nature!" *(Troilus and Cressida)*
- "Thou logger-headed rabbit-sucker!"
- "Thou lumpish hedge-born moldwarp!"
- "Thou art pigeon-liver'd and lack gall." *(Hamlet)*
- "Thou art a flesh-monger, a fool and a coward." *(Measure for Measure)*
- "Thou art unfit for any place but hell." *(Richard III)*
- "Thou clay-brained guts, thou knotty-pated fool!" *(Henry IV, Part 2)*
- "Thou jarring, tickle-brained foot-licker!"
- "Thou frothy, rump-fed knave!"
- "Thou beetle-headed, flap-eared knave." *(Henry IV, Part 1)*
- "Thou pribbling ill-nurtured knave!"
- "Thou gorbellied knotty-pated knave!"
- "Thou spongy, hasty-witted lout!"
- "Thou fobbing folly-fallen canker-blossom!"
- "Thou roguish, sheep-biting, flap-mouthed measle!"
- "Thou subtle, perjur'd, false, disloyal man!" *(Two Gentlemen of Verona)*
- "Thy sin's not accidental, but a trade." *(Measure for Measure)*

- "Thy tongue out-venoms all the snakes of the Nile." *(Antony and Cleopatra)*
- "Hang cur, hang, you whoreson, insolent noisemaker!" *(The Tempest)*
- "You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things!" *(Julius Caesar)*
- "Thou cream-faced loon!" *(Macbeth)*
- "Thy breath stinks with eating toasted cheese." *(Merry Wives of Windsor)*
- "Thine face is not worth sunburning." *(Henry V)*
- "You have such a February face." *(Much Ado About Nothing)*
- "I do desire we may be better strangers." *(As You Like It)*
- "Thou yeasty, fly-bitten varlet!"
- "Thou cockered ill-breeding maggot-pie!"
- "Thou art a beetle-headed, flap-eared knave." *(Henry IV, Part 1)*
- "Thou art a foul and pestilent congregation of vapors!" *(Hamlet)*
- "Thy mother's name is ominous to children." *(Richard III)*
- "Thy lips rot off!"
- "Thou puny feeder of apes!"
- "Thou art as tedious as a twice-told tale." *(King John)*
- "Thou spongy hasty-witted miscreant!"
- "Thou whoreson obscene greasy tallow-catch!"
- "Thou art a spleeny, idle-headed codpiece!"
- "Thy name is apoplexy!"
- "Thou whoreson dismal-dreaming lewdster!"

- "Thou rank, idle-headed death-token!"
- "Thou roguish hedge-born scullion!"
- "Thou art a base, proud, shallow, beggarly, three-suited, hundred-pound, filthy worsted-stocking knave." *(King Lear)*
- "I do bite my thumb at thee, sir!" *(Romeo and Juliet)*
- "Thou puking, hedge-born flap-dragon!"
- "Away, you three-inch fool!"

A la Carte

Combine one word from each of the three columns below, starting with "Thou art a(n)":

Column 1	**Column 2**	**Column 3**
artless	bunch-back'd	knave
bawdy	bat-fowling	baggage
beslubbering	beef-witted	barnacle
bootless	beetle-headed	bladder
churlish	boil-brained	boar-pig
cockered	clapper-clawed	bugbear
clouted	clay-brained	bum-bailey
craven	common-kissing	canker-blossom
currish	crook-pated	clack-dish
dankish	dismal-dreaming	clotpole
dissembling	dizzy-eyed	coxcomb
droning	doghearted	codpiece
errant	dread-bolted	death-token
fawning	earth-vexing	dewberry
fobbing	elf-skinned	flap-dragon
froward	fat-kidneyed	flax-wench
frothy	fen-sucked	flirt-gill
gleeking	flap-mouthed	foot-licker
goatish	fly-bitten	fustilarian
gorbellied	folly-fallen	giglet
impertinent	fool-born	gudgeon
infectious	full-gorged	haggard
jarring	guts-griping	harpy
loggerheaded	half-faced	hedge-pig
lumpish	hasty-witted	horn-beast
mammering	hedge-born	hugger-mugger
misbegotten	hell-hated	joithead
mewling	idle-headed	lewdster
paunchy	ill-breeding	lout
pribbling	ill-nurtured	maggot-pie

puking
puny
qualling
rank
reeky
roguish
ruttish
saucy
spleeny
spongy
surly
tottering
unmuzzled
vain
venomed
villainous
warped
wayward
weedy
yeasty
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
unwash'd
tickle-brained
toad-spotted
unchin-snouted
whoreson
malt-worm
mammet
measle
minnow
miscreant
moldwarp
mumble-news
nut-hook
pigeon-egg
pignut
puttock
pumpion
ratsbane
scut
skainsmate
strumpet
varlot
vassal
whey-face
wagtail