

English IV – A Midsummer Night's Dream Acts I and II Vocabulary Words

1. linger

take one's time; proceed slowly

O, methinks, how slow

*This old moon wanes! she **lingers** my desires*

2. mirth

great merriment

Stir up the Athenian youth to merriments;

*Awake the pert and nimble spirit of **mirth**;*

3. pomp

ceremonial elegance and splendor

Hippolyta, I woo'd thee with my sword,

And won thy love, doing thee injuries;

But I will wed thee in another key,

*With **pomp**, with triumph and with revelling.*

4. vexation

anger produced by some annoying irritation

*Full of **vexation** come I, with complaint*

Against my child, my daughter Hermia.

5. feign

make believe with the intent to deceive

*Thou hast by moonlight at her window sung,
With **feigning** voice verses of **feigning** love*

6. entreat

ask for or request earnestly

*I do **entreat** your grace to pardon me.*

7. abjure

formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief

*Either to die the death or to **abjure**
For ever the society of men.*

8. austerity

self-denial, especially refraining from worldly pleasures

*Upon that day either prepare to die
For disobedience to your father's will,
Or else to wed Demetrius, as he would;
Or on Diana's altar to protest
For aye **austerity** and single life.*

9. relent

give in, as to influence or pressure

Relent, sweet Hermia: and, Lysander, yield

Thy crazed title to my certain right.

10. edict

a formal or authoritative proclamation

If then true lovers have been ever cross'd,

*It stands as an **edict** in destiny:*

Then let us teach our trial patience,

Because it is a customary cross

11. prosper

make steady progress

I swear to thee, by Cupid's strongest bow,

By his best arrow with the golden head,

By the simplicity of Venus' doves,

*By that which knitteth souls and **prosper** loves*

12. wont

an established custom

And in the wood, where often you and I

*Upon faint primrose-beds were **wont** to lie,*

Emptying our bosoms of their counsel sweet,

There my Lysander and myself shall meet;

13. transpose

change the order or arrangement of

*Things base and vile, folding no quantity,
Love can **transpose** to form and dignity*

14. forswear

formally reject or disavow

*And therefore is Love said to be a child,
Because in choice he is so oft beguiled.
As waggish boys in game themselves **forswear**,
So the boy Love is perjured every where:*

15. interlude

a brief show between the sections of a longer performance

*Here is the scroll of every man's name, which is thought fit, through all Athens, to play in
our **interlude** before the duke and the duchess, on his wedding-day at night.*

16. lamentable

bad; unfortunate

*Marry, our play is, the most **lamentable** comedy, and most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisby.*

17. gallant

having or displaying great dignity or nobility

*A lover, that kills himself most **gallant** for love.*

18. discretion

freedom to act or judge on one's own

*I grant you, friends, if that you should fright the ladies out of their wits, they would have no more **discretion** but to hang us: but I will aggravate my voice so that I will roar you as gently as any sucking dove; I will roar you as 'twere any nightingale.*

19. wrath

belligerence aroused by a real or supposed wrong

*Take heed the queen come not within his sight;
For Oberon is passing fell and **wrath***

20. shun

avoid and stay away from deliberately

*If you will patiently dance in our round
And see our moonlight revels, go with us;
If not, **shun** me, and I will spare your haunts.*

21. chide

scold or reprimand severely or angrily

*We shall **chide** downright, if I longer stay.*

22. entice

provoke someone to do something through persuasion

*Do I **entice** you? do I speak you fair?*

23. spurn

reject with contempt

*Use me but as your spaniel, **spurn** me, strike me,
Neglect me, lose me; only give me leave,
Unworthy as I am, to follow you.*

24. impeach

challenge the honesty or veracity of

*You do **impeach** your modesty too much,
To leave the city and commit yourself
Into the hands of one that loves you not*

25. WOO

make amorous advances towards

*We cannot fight for love, as men may do;
We should be **wooned** and were not made to **woo**.*

26. disdainful

expressing extreme contempt

*A sweet Athenian lady is in love
With a **disdainful** youth*

27. clamorous

conspicuously and offensively loud

and some keep back

*The **clamorous** owl that nightly hoots and wonders
At our quaint spirits.*

28. aloof

remote in manner

*One **aloof** stand sentinel.*

29. vile

morally reprehensible

*Be it ounce, or cat, or bear,
Pard, or boar with bristled hair,
In thy eye that shall appear
When thou wakest, it is thy dear:
Wake when some **vile** thing is near.*

30. tedious

so lacking in interest as to cause mental weariness

*Content with Hermia! No; I do repent
The **tedious** minutes I with her have spent.*

31. nuptial

of or relating to a wedding

*Now, fair Hippolyta, our **nuptial** hour
Draws on apace;*

32. visage

the human face

*Tomorrow night, when Phoebe doth behold
Her silver **visage** in the wat'ry glass*

33. beguiled

filled with wonder and delight

*And therefore is Love said to be a child,
Because in choice he is so oft **beguiled**.*

34. jest

act in a funny or teasing way

*I am that merry wanderer of the night.
I **jest** to Oberon, and make him smile
When I fat and bean-fed horse beguile,*

35. amorous

inclined toward or displaying love

*Playing on pipes of corn, and versing love
To **amorous** Phillida.*

36. wanton

unprovoked or without motive or justification

*When we have laughed to see the sails conceive
And grow big-bellied with the **wanton** wind;*

37. dulcet

pleasing to the ear

*And heard a mermaid, on a dolphin's back,
Uttering such **dulcet** and harmonious breath
That the rude sea grew civil at her song,*

38. dote

shower with love; show excessive affection for

*Fetch me that flow'r; the herb I showed thee once.
The juice of it, on sleeping eyelids laid,
Will make or man or woman madly **dote**
Upon the next live creature that it sees.*

39. tarry

leave slowly and hesitantly

*We'll rest us, Hermia, if you think it good,
And **tarry** for the comfort of the day.*

40. SWOON

pass out from weakness or physical or emotional distress

*Alack, where are you? Speak, an if you hear.
Speak, of all loves! I **swoon** almost with fear.*