

English IV – *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Acts III, IV, and IV Vocabulary Words

1. abide

put up with something or somebody unpleasant

*There are things in this comedy of Pyramus and Thisby that will never please. First, Pyramus must draw a sword to kill himself; which the ladies cannot **abide**.*

2. odious

unequivocally detestable

*Thisbe, the flowers of **odious** savours sweet*

3. beseech

ask for or request earnestly

*I cry your worship's mercy, heartily: I **beseech** your worship's name.*

4. commend

express a good opinion of

*I pray you, **commend** me to Mistress Squash, your mother, and to Master Peascod, your father.*

5. kindred

group of people related by blood or marriage

Good Master Mustardseed, I know your patience well: that same cowardly, giant-like ox-beef hath devoured many a gentleman of your house: I promise you your **kindred** had made my eyes water ere now.

6. rebuke

censure severely or angrily

O, why **rebuke** you him that loves you so?

7. troth

a solemn pledge of fidelity

Then fate o'er-rules, that, one man holding **troth**,
A million fail, confounding oath on oath.

8. confound

mistake one thing for another

Then fate o'er-rules, that, one man holding troth,
A million fail, **confounding** oath on oath.

9. derision

the act of treating with contempt

Why should you think that I should woo in scorn?
Scorn and **derision** never come in tears

10. bequeath

leave or give, especially by will after one's death

*And here, with all good will, with all my heart,
In Hermia's love I yield you up my part;
And yours of Helena to me **bequeath**,
Whom I do love and will do till my death.*

11. sojourn

spend a certain length of time; reside temporarily

*If e'er I lov'd her, all that love is gone.
My heart to her but as guest-wise **sojourn'd**;
And now to Helen is it home return'd,
There to remain.*

12. disparage

express a negative opinion of

***Disparage** not the faith thou dost not know*

13. asunder

into parts or pieces

*And will you rent our ancient love **asunder**,
To join with men in scorning your poor friend?*

14. scorn

look down on with disdain

I am amazed at your passionate words.

*I **scorn** you not: it seems that you **scorn** me.*

15. hinder

be an obstacle to

*Why, get you gone: who is't that **hinders** you?*

16. vixen

a malicious woman with a fierce temper

*She was a **vixen** when she went to school,
And though she be but little, she is fierce.*

17. fray

a noisy fight

*Your hands than mine are quicker for a **fray**,
My legs are longer though, to run away.*

18. rail

criticize severely

*Like to Lysander sometime frame thy tongue,
Then stir Demetrius up with bitter wrong;
And sometime **rail** thou like Demetrius.*

19. harbinger

something indicating the approach of something or someone

*My fairy lord, this must be done with haste,
For night's swift dragons cut the clouds full fast;
And yonder shines Aurora's **harbinger***

20. defile

spot, stain, or pollute

*He is **defil'd**
That draws a sword on thee.*

21. spite

meanness or nastiness

*Come, thou gentle day!
For if but once thou show me thy grey light,
I'll find Demetrius and revenge this **spite**.*

22. amiable

diffusing warmth and friendliness

*Come, sit thee down upon this flowery bed,
While I thy **amiable** cheeks do coy,
And stick musk-roses in thy sleek smooth head,
And kiss thy fair large ears, my gentle joy.*

23. upbraid

express criticism towards

*For, meeting her of late behind the wood,
Seeking sweet favours from this hateful fool,
I did **upbraid** her and fall out with her*

24. enamor

attract

*My Oberon! what visions have I seen!
Methought I was **enamour'd** of an ass*

25. amity

a state of friendship and cordiality

*Now thou and I are new in **amity**,
And will to-morrow midnight solemnly
Dance in Duke Theseus' house triumphantly,
And bless it to all fair prosperity*

26. rite

any customary observance or practice

*No doubt they rose up early to observe
The **rite** of May; and, hearing our intent,
Came here in grace of our solemnity.*

27. concord

a harmonious state of things and of their properties

I know you two are rival enemies:

*How comes this gentle **concord** in the world,
That hatred is so far from jealousy,
To sleep by hate, and fear no enmity?*

28. enmity

a state of deep-seated ill-will

I know you two are rival enemies:

*How comes this gentle concord in the world,
That hatred is so far from jealousy,
To sleep by hate, and fear no **enmity**?*

29. betroth

give to in marriage

To her, my lord,

*Was I **betroth'd** ere I saw Hermia.*

30. loathe

dislike intensely; feel disgust toward

*But like a sickness did I **loathe** this food.*

*But, as in health, come to my natural taste,
Now I do wish it, love it, long for it,
And will for evermore be true to it.*

31. solemnity

a somber and dignified feeling

We'll hold a feast in great **solemnity**.

32. mar

cause to become imperfect

*If he come not, then the play is **marred**: it goes not forward, doth it?*

33. paragon

a perfect embodiment of a concept

*You must say ' **paragon**': a paramour is, God bless us, a thing of naught.*

34. discourse

talk at length and formally about a topic

*Masters, I am to **discourse** wonders: but ask me not what; for if I tell you, I am no true Athenian. I will tell you every thing, right as it fell out.*

35. seething

in constant agitation

*Lovers and madmen have such **seething** brains,
Such shaping fantasies, that apprehend
More than cool reason ever comprehends.*

36. revel

unrestrained merrymaking

What **revels** are in hand? Is there no play,
To ease the anguish of a torturing hour?

Revels is used here in the sense of "festivities" or "entertainments."

37. discord

lack of agreement or harmony

*Merry and tragical? Tedious and brief?
That is hot ice and wondrous strange snow.
How shall we find the concord of this **discord**?*

38. apt

being of striking pertinence

*But by ten words, my lord, it is too long,
Which makes it tedious. For in all the play
There is not one word **apt**, one player fitted.*

39. toil

work hard

*Hard-handed men that work in Athens here,
Which never labour'd in their minds till now,
And now have **toil'd** their unbreathed memories
With this same play, against your nuptial.*

40. amiss

in an improper or mistaken or unfortunate manner

For never anything can be **amiss**,
When simpleness and duty tender it.

41. audacious

invulnerable to fear or intimidation

Trust me, sweet,
Out of this silence yet I pick'd a welcome;
And in the modesty of fearful duty
I read as much as from the rattling tongue
Of saucy and **audacious** eloquence.

42. eloquence

powerful and effective language

Trust me, sweet,
Out of this silence yet I pick'd a welcome;
And in the modesty of fearful duty
I read as much as from the rattling tongue
Of saucy and audacious **eloquence**.

43. strife

bitter conflict; heated or violent dissension

Then know that I, one Snug the joiner, am
A lion fell, nor else no lion's dam;
For if I should as lion come in **strife**
Into this place, 'twere pity on my life.

44. valor

courage when facing danger

*This lion is a very fox for his **valour**.*

45. dainty

delicately beautiful

O **dainty** duck! O dear!

46. quell

suppress or crush completely

Approach, ye Furies fell!

O Fates, come, come,

Cut thread and thrum;

*Quail, crush, conclude, and **quell**!*

47. palpable

capable of being perceived

*This **palpable**-gross play hath well beguiled*

The heavy gait of night.

Theseus describes the play as *palpably* ("obviously" or "clearly") *gross* ("bad" or "clumsy").

48. woe

misery resulting from affliction

Now the wasted brands do glow,

Whilst the screech-owl, screeching loud,

*Puts the wretch that lies in **woe**
In remembrance of a shroud.*

49. shroud

burial garment in which a corpse is wrapped

*Now the wasted brands do glow,
Whilst the screech-owl, screeching loud,
Puts the wretch that lies in woe
In remembrance of a **shroud**.*

50. hallow

render holy by means of religious rites

*...not a mouse
Shall disturb this **hallow'd** house:
I am sent with broom before,
To sweep the dust behind the door.*

51. rote

memorization by repetition

*First, rehearse your song by **rote**
To each word a warbling note:
Hand in hand, with fairy grace,
Will we sing, and bless this place.*

52. amends

something done or paid to make up for a wrong

So, good night unto you all.

Give me your hands, if we be friends,

And Robin shall restore **amends**.