

Puns



The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, Act I

Vocabulary

Recognizing and Mapping Puns

A **pun** is a word or phrase that means two different things at the same time. Puns are based on ▾

- homophones—words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings ▾

soles/souls

sun/son

flour/flower ▾

- two meanings of a word ▾

Ironing clothes is a pressing matter.

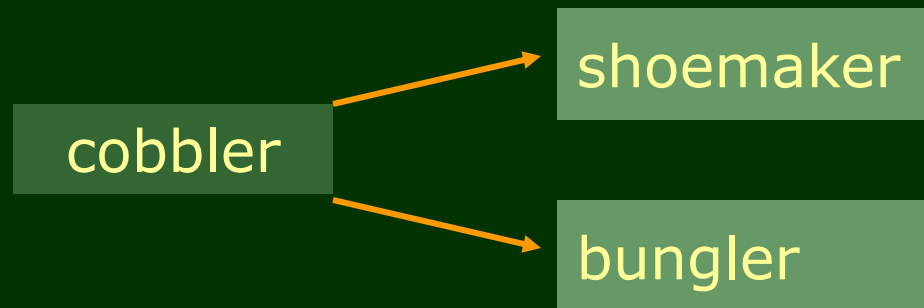


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In the first scene, when the cobbler says he is a cobbler, he plays on two meanings of the word. In Shakespeare's day, the word could mean either "shoemaker" or "bungler." This is one way to map this pun. ▼



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When the cobbler calls himself “a mender of bad soles,” he also puns on the meaning of soles. *Soles* refers to parts of shoes but also sounds exactly like *souls*, which is the emotional or spiritual part of a person. Map it like this. ▾

soles



souls



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Vocabulary Activity: Mapping Puns

Create a pun map for each of these puns from Act I, scene 1 of *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*.

"All that I live by is with the **awl**" (line 21)

awl



all



"I am . . . a surgeon to old shoes; when they are in danger, I **recover** them." (lines 23–24)

recover



make better



put on new covers

[End of Section]

