

## WS 1: Feste and his language



1. Playing with words is typical for the character of Feste. Read the following lines again in the CSS, III, i, p.71, l. 1-5.

Feste uses the same word - 'to live' - for different meanings. With the help of the info box below decide which meaning is meant in each quote and each situation. Fill in the gaps.

Q different meanings of 'to live' X

*to live*=  
to live (literal meaning)  
to earn money  
to have a house

- (A) V: "Dost thou \_\_\_\_\_ by thy tabor?"  
(B) F: "No, sir, I \_\_\_\_\_ by the church."  
V: "Art thou a churchman?"  
(C) F: "No such matter, sir. I \_\_\_\_\_ by the church; for I \_\_\_\_\_ at my house, and my house doth stand by the church."

2. Read the following quotes by Feste and think about how you think Feste would say them.

- (A) "[W]ords are very rascals, since bonds disgraced them."  
(B) "I can yield you none without words, and words are grown so false, I am loath to prove reason with them."  
(C) "The Lady Olivia has no folly. She will keep no fool, sir, till she be married, and fools are as like husbands as pilchards are to herrings - the husband's the bigger. I am indeed not her fool but her corrupter of words."

3. Together with a partner read those lines out loud. Try to read them in different ways.

4. Now, comment on the quotes from a dialogue between Fester and Viola (see task 2) and reflect on what they tell you about Feste as a character.

Include at least one of the following questions in your answer:

- What is the meaning of the quotes?
- What does Feste say about being a fool?
- What does he say about the connection between language and himself / fools?

### Vocabulary:

*rascal*: a dishonest person, *to yield*: to produce, *folly*: synonym foolishness (*Narrheit*), *pilchards*: *Sardinen*

The annotations were designed with the *Cambridge Dictionary* (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/de>), the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) (<https://www.oed.com>), and the *PONS English-German Dictionary* (<https://de.pons.com/uebersetzung/deutsch-englisch>) and adapted by the author.

The tasks on this worksheet were adapted from the task *Feste: 'her corrupter of words'* in the CSS edition\* of *Twelfth Night*.

\*Shakespeare, William: *Twelfth Night* (Cambridge School Shakespeare, edited by Rex Gibson). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005, p. 70.

