

Women's monologues from Shakespeare
Comedies first; tragedies second

Make sure you choose a monologue long enough to show your dramatic skills. Intercut monologues should be memorized in their entirety, minus the interruption.

All's Well That Ends Well

Helena	Verse	<i>O! were that all. I think not on my father</i>	<i>I i 41</i>
Helena	Verse	<i>Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie,</i>	<i>I i 121</i>
Countess	Verse	<i>If ever we are nature's, these are ours; this thorn</i>	<i>I iii 41</i>
Helena	Verse	<i>Then, I confess, Here on my knee, before high heaven and you</i>	<i>I iii 111</i>
Helena	Verse	<i>"Till I have no wife, I have nothing in France."</i>	<i>III ii 82</i>
Countess	Verse	<i>What angel shall bless this unworthy husband? He cannot thrive,</i>	<i>III iv 29</i>
Helena <i>intercut</i>	Verse	<i>That you may well perceive I have not wrong'd you,</i>	<i>IV iv 1</i>

As You Like It

Rosalind <i>intercut</i>	Prose	<i>I have been told so of many; but indeed an old religious uncle of mine taught me to speak,</i>	<i>III ii 39</i>
Phoebe	Verse	<i>I would not be thy executioner</i>	<i>III v 11</i>
Rosalind	Verse	<i>And why, I pray you? Who might be your mother,</i>	<i>III v 40</i>
Phoebe	Verse	<i>Think not I love him, though I ask for him.</i>	<i>I iii 111</i>
Rosalind <i>intercut</i>	Prose	<i>O, I know where you are</i>	<i>V ii 15</i>
Rosalind	Prose	<i>It is not the fashion to see the lady epilogue</i>	<i>Epilogue</i>

The Comedy of Errors

Adriana	Verse	<i>His company must do his minions grace</i>	<i>I i 79</i>
Adriana	Verse	<i>Ay, ay, Antipholus, look strange and frown</i>	<i>II ii 86</i>
Luciana	Verse	<i>And may it be that you have quite forgot</i>	<i>II iii 4</i>
Courtesan	Verse	<i>Now, out of doubt Antipholus is mad,</i>	<i>IV iii 56</i>
Abbess	Verse	<i>And thereof came it that the man was mad.</i>	<i>V i 75</i>
Adriana	Verse	<i>May it please your grace, Antipholus, my husband,</i>	<i>V i 144</i>

Cymbeline

Queen	Verse	<i>Weeps she still, sayst thou? Dost thou think in time</i>	<i>I v 57</i>
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Imogen	Verse	<i>I did not take my leave of him, but had</i>	<i>I iii 33</i>
Imogen	Verse	<i>Away! I do condemn mine ears that have</i>	<i>I vi 165</i>
Queen	Verse	<i>That opportunity Which then they had to take from 's, to resume</i>	<i>III i 19</i>
Imogen	Verse	<i>Who? thy lord? that is my lord, Leonatus!</i>	<i>III ii 29</i>
Imogen	Verse	<i>Thou told'st me, when we came from horse, the place</i>	<i>III iv 1</i>
Imogen	Verse	<i>I false! Thy conscience witness! Iachimo,</i>	<i>III iv 39</i>
Imogen	Verse	<i>Why, I must die; And if I do not by thy hand, thou art</i>	<i>III iv 70</i>
Imogen	Verse	<i>I see a man's life is a tedious one</i>	<i>III vi 1</i>
Imogen	Verse	<i>Yes, sir, to Milford-Haven; which is the way?</i>	<i>IV ii 363</i>
Cymbeline	Verse	<i>O rare instinct! When shall I hear all through? This fierce abridgment</i>	<i>V v 460</i>

Loves Labours Lost

Imogen	Verse	<i>Good Lord Boyet, my beauty, though but mean,</i>	<i>II i 15</i>
Princess	Verse	<i>See, see my beauty will be sav'd by merit</i>	<i>IV i 24</i>
Princess	Verse	<i>Sweethearts, we shall be rich ere we depart</i>	<i>V ii 1</i>
Rosalind	Verse	<i>They are worse fools to purchase mocking so</i>	<i>V ii 63</i>
Rosalind	Verse	<i>A time, methinks, too short</i>	<i>V ii 773</i>
Rosalind	Verse	<i>Oft have I heard of you, my lord Berowne</i>	<i>V ii 827</i>

Measure for Measure

Isabella	Verse	<i>Could great men thunder</i>	<i>II ii 137</i>
Isabella	Verse	<i>To whom should I complain? Did I tell this,</i>	<i>II iv 170</i>
Isabella	Verse	<i>O faithless coward! O dishonest wretch!</i>	<i>III i 151</i>
Isabella intercut	Verse	<i>Most strange but yet most truly will I speak</i>	<i>V i 42</i>


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Isabella	Verse	<i>In brief, to set the needless process by</i>		V i 110
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Merry Wives of Windsor

Mistress Page	Prose	<i>What, have I scaped love-letters in the holiday-time of my beauty,</i>		II i 1
Mistress Ford	Prose	<i>We burn Daylight. Here, Read, read; percieve how I might be knighted</i>		II i 15
Mistress Quickly	Prose	<i>Marry, this is the short and the long of it</i>		II i 32
Mistress Page	Prose	<i>There is an old tale goes that Herne the hunter</i>		IV iv 24



Merchant of Venice

Portia	Prose	<i>If to do were as easy as to know</i>		I ii 7
Portia	Verse	<i>I pray you, tarry: pause a day or two</i>		III ii 1
Portia	Verse	<i>Away then! I am lock'd in one of them</i>		III ii 44
Portia	Verse	<i>You see me, Lord Bassanio, where I stand</i>		III ii 136
Portia	Verse	<i>They shall, Nerissa; but in such a habit</i>		III iv 64
Portia	Verse	<i>The quality of mercy is not strain'd,</i>		IV i 179


Much Ado About Nothing

Beatrice	Verse	<i>What fire is in mine ears? Can this be true?</i>		III i 113
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Pericles, Prince of Tyre

Marina	Verse	<i>Do anything but this thou doest</i>		IV vi 113
Marina	Verse	<i>I am a maid, My lord, that ne'er before invited eyes</i>		V i 99

The Taming of the Shrew

Kate	Verse	<i>No shame but mine. I must forsooth be forc'd</i>		III ii 8-20
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Kate	Verse	<i>The more my wrong, the more his spite appears</i>		IV iii 78-104
Kate	Verse	<i>Fie, fie! unknit that threatening unkind brow</i>		V ii 54






The Tempest

Miranda	Verse	<i>If by your art, my dearest father, you have</i>		I ii 1
*Miranda	Verse	<i>Abhorred slave, which any print of goodness wilt not take</i>		I ii 419
Miranda	Verse	<i>Alas, now, pray you, Work not so hard: I would the lightning had</i>		III i 19
Miranda	Verse	<i>I do not know One of my sex; no woman's face remember,</i>		III i 61
		*The Edition (1914 Oxford) on the Bartleby server to which we link gives this speech to Prospero. The Riverside gives the speech to Miranda. The First Folio has it as Miranda's.		


Troilus and Cressida

Prologue	Verse	<i>In Troy there lies the scene. From isles of Greece</i>		Prologue
Cressida	Verse	<i>Words, vows, gifts, tears, and love's full sacrifice</i>		I ii 169
Cressida	Verse	<i>Hard to seem won: but I was won, my lord</i>		III ii 64

Two Gentlemen of Verona

Julia	Verse	<i>O hateful hands, to tear such loving words!</i>		I ii 115
Julia	Verse	<i>The more thou damm'st it up, the more it burns</i>		II vii 26
Silvia	Verse	<i>O Eglamour, thou art a gentleman</i>		IV iii 16
Julia	Verse	<i>How many women would do such a message?</i>		IV iv 51
Julia	Verse	<i>A virtuous gentlewoman, mild and beautiful</i>		IV iv 142

The Winter's Tale

Hermione intercut	Verse	<i>There's some ill planet reigns I must be patient till the heavens look</i>		II i 130
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Paulina	Verse	<i>I dare be sworn These dangerous unsafe lunes i' the king,</i>	II ii 42
Hermione	Verse	<i>Since what I am to say must be but that Which contradicts my accusation and</i>	III ii 16
Hermione	Verse	<i>Sir, spare your threats: The bug which you would fright me with I seek.</i>	III ii 90
Paulina	Verse	<i>What studied torments, tyrant, hast for me?</i>	III ii 185
Time (Chorus)	Verse	<i>I, that please some, try all, both joy and terror <</i>	IV 0 1

The Tragedies

Antony & Cleopatra

Cleopatra	Verse	<i>Where think'st thou he is now? Stands he, or sits he?</i>	I v 26
Cleopatra	Verse	<i>No more, but e'en a woman, and commanded</i>	IV xiii 91
Cleopatra	Verse	<i>Sir, I will eat no meat, I'll not drink, sir</i>	V ii 62
Cleopatra	Verse	<i>O Caesar what a wounding shame is this</i>	V ii 194
Cleopatra <i>intercut</i>	Verse	<i>Give me my robe, put on my crown; I have</i>	V ii 315

Coriolanus

Volumnia	Prose	<i>If my son were my husband, I would freelier rejoice</i>	I iii 1
Volumnia	Verse	<i>Because that now it lies you on to speak</i>	III ii 70
Volumnia	Verse	<i>Should we be silent and not speak</i>	V iii 108
Volumnia	Verse	<i>Nay, go not from us thus</i>	V iii 148

Hamlet

Ophelia <i>intercut</i>	Verse	<i>O my lord, my lord, I have been so affrighted!</i>	II i 87
Ophelia	Verse	<i>O what a noble mind is here o'erthrown</i>	III i 132
Player	Verse	<i>So many journeys may the sun and moon</i>	III ii 110

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Queen			
Ophelia <i>intercut</i>	Prose & Verse	<i>How should I your true love know</i> 🖨	IV v 27
Ophelia <i>intercut</i>	Prose & Verse	<i>They bore him barefaced on the bier;</i>	IV v 148
Gertrude <i>intercut</i>	Verse	<i>One woe doth tread upon another's heel</i> 🖨	IV vii 180

Julius Caesar

Portia	Verse	<i>Nor for yours neither. You've ungently, Brutus,</i> 🖨	II i 257
Portia	Verse	<i>Is Brutus sick? and is it physical</i> 🖨	II i 237-280
Calpurnia	Verse	<i>Caesar, I never stood on ceremonies</i> 🖨	II ii 13

Macbeth

Lady Macbeth	Prose & Verse	<i>They met me in the day of success</i> 🖨	I v 1
Lady Macbeth	Verse	<i>The raven himself is hoarse That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan</i> 🖨	I v 31
Lady Macbeth <i>intercut</i>	verse	<i>Was the hope drunk wherein you dress'd yourself?</i> 🖨	I vii 41

Titus Andronicus

Tamora	Verse	<i>Stay, Roman brethren! Gracious conqueror,</i> 🖨	I i 109
Tamora	Verse	<i>My lovely Aaron, wherefore look'st thou sad</i> 🖨	II iii 13
Tamora	Verse	<i>Have I not reason, think you, to look pale?</i> 🖨	II iii 96
Tamora	Verse	<i>King, be thy thoughts imperious, like thy name</i> 🖨	IV iv 83
Tamora	Verse	<i>Know, thou sad man, I am not Tamora</i> 🖨	V ii 31

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October 23-25th @ 7:00 PM
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