

Portia's suitors

Match up the name to Portia's description of the suitor

First, there is the Neapolitan prince	He doth nothing but frown, as who should say, 'And you will not have me, choose.' He hears merry tales and smiles not; I fear he will prove the weeping philosopher when he grows old, being so full of unmannerly sadness in his youth. I had rather be married to a death's head with a bone in his mouth than to either of these. God defend me from these two!
Then is there the County Palantine	Yes, yes, it was Bassanio! – as I think so was he called.
How say you by the French lord, Monsieur Le Bon?	Very vilely in the morning when he is sober, and most vilely in the afternoon when he is drunk. When he is best he is a little worse than a man, and when he is worst he is little better than a beast. And the worst fall that ever fell, I hope I shall make shift to go without him.
What say you then to Falconbridge, the young baron of England?	If I could bid the fifth welcome with so good heart as I can bid the other four farewell, I should be glad of his approach. If he have the condition of a saint, and the complexion of a devil, I had rather he should shrive me than wive me.
What think you of the Scottish lord his neighbor?	God made him, and therefore let him pass for a man. In truth I know it is a sin to be a mocker, but he! – why, he hath a horse better than the Neapolitan's, a better bad habit of frowning than the Count Palantine: he is every man in no man. If a throstle sing, he falls straight a-capering; he will fence with his own shadow. If I should marry him, I should marry twenty husbands. If he would despise me, I would forgive him; for if he love me to madness, I shall never requite him.
How like you the young German, the Duke of Saxony's nephew?	That he hath a neighbourly charity in him, for he borrowed box of the ear of the Englishman and swore he would pay him again when he was able. I think the Frenchman because his surety and sealed under for another.
Do you not remember, lady, in your father's time, a Venetian, a scholar and a soldier, that came hither in company of the Marquis of Montferrat?	You know I say nothing to him, for he understands not me, nor I him: he hath neither Latin, French, nor Italian, and you will come into the court and swear that I have a poor penny-worth in the English. He is a proper man's picture, but alas who can converse with a dumbshow? How oddly he is suited! I think he bought his doublet in Italy, his round hose in France, his bonnet in Germany, and his behavior everywhere.
... and there is a forerunner come from a fifth, the Prince of Morocco, who brings word the prince his master will be here tonight.	Ay, there's a colt indeed, for he doth nothing but talk of his horse; and he makes it a great appropriation to his own parts that he can shoe him himself. I am much afeared my lady his mother played false with a smith.

The Merchant of Venice

Now write out a modern translation of Portia's description of the suitors in the table

First, there is the Neapolitan prince	
Then is there the County Palantine	
How say you by the French lord, Monsieur Le Bon?	
What say you then to Falconbridge, the young baron of England?	
What think you of the Scottish lord his neighbor?	
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Now, use the illustration below to explain what you think Portia's feelings towards the suitors are using quotations from her descriptions as evidence that you are right:

The audience can see that Portia does like Bassanio because she remembers his name and then adds, 'I think' in the hope Nerissa does not realise she has been thinking about him. She also fails to criticise or make fun of him which reveals her true feelings.

