

*Taming of the Shrew*  
Act I Scene ii

Players: Petruchio, Gremio, Hortensio, Lucentio, Tranio, Biondello

1. Why might Shakespeare have chosen to begin this scene with an incident so full of "awful" puns?
2. What has Petruchio come to town to do? What does it suggest about his views of women?
3. Both Petruchio and Hortensio have their own purposes in pursuing their respective women, which motive seems less honorable?
4. Of Lucentio and Gremio, who seems to do more of the planning? What does this suggest?
5. In your opinion, has Petruchio underestimated the challenge he faces?
6. Paraphrase the allusion about Hercules on page 31. Why is this statement appealing to Petruchio?