

Insulting Solution

Puzzle: Arjun Rajan, Michael Chen

Solution: Michael Chen

Answer: NINETEENFIFTYONE

The inspiration of this puzzle came from the activity “Insult Sword Fighting” from the *Monkey Island* games. The premise of insult sword-fighting, especially when at sea in the game, is to come up with a retort that makes sense and rhymes with the insult. Likewise, in this puzzle you are given an insult and you must find the word that both makes sense contextually and rhymes with the insult. Then indexing into each word, you get the phrase “YOU SOLVE PUZZLES WORSE THAN MONKEYS.” Clued by the phrase, “So what’s your final retort?” you must come up with a fitting retort to that insult which just has to make sense and rhyme. For example, it is possible to submit “AT LEAST I CAN SOLVE A PUZZLE WITHOUT FLUNKYS.”

Finally, when a correct retort is submitted, you will receive the correct answer **NINETEENFIFTYONE** which must be submitted again.

Insult: You have the charm of a hobbledehoy!

Retort: Well, at least I act older than a five-year-old **boy**! (3rd) **Y**

Insult: You look like a monkey and act like a cockalorum!

Retort: I’m not surprised you don’t recognize proper **decorum**! (4th), (6th) **O, U**

Insult: You have no more honor than a family of knaves!

Retort: Is that what you learned, being descended from **slaves**? (1st) **S**

Insult: Your stench is so bad, it would offend even a sewer rat!

Retort: You released that stench because you are scared, like a **polecat**! (2nd), (3rd) **O, L**

Insult: You tell so many lies that even your mother will grieve!

Retort: Look up! On the ceiling it says **naive**. (4th), (5th) **V, E**

Insult: Defeating you in battle will be as easy as eating my brunch!

Retort: Every battle we fought, I won without throwing a single **punch**! (1st), (2nd) **P, U**

Insult: You’re so fake as a person that you’re actually a lizard!

Retort: That's only because you're as blind as a bat in a **blizzard**! (4th), (5th) **Z, Z**

Insult: Putting you on a ship is even more useless than putting a lubber!

Retort: The only part of you that's useful on a ship is your **blubber**! (2nd), (6th) **L, E**

Insult: You're as dangerous as a panda chewing on bamboo!

Retort: That panda's killed more people than you've ever **slew**. (1st), (4th) **S, W**

Insult: You have the courage of a mouse in a house of cats!

Retort: And you have the backbone of that house's **doormat**! (2nd), (4th) **O, R**

Insult: Your parents loved you less than their booze!

Retort: You don't have to project your parents' **abuse**! (4th), (5th) **S, E**

Insult: If we battle, I will tan your hide until it turns into leather!

Retort: Maybe you could if your parents' ever let you off your **tether**! (3rd), (4th) **T, H**

Insult: You keep the company of cheats and picaroons!

Retort: That sounds like jealousy. Are you tired of being all **alone**? (1st), (4th) **A, N**

Insult: You're so stupid, you fall for phishing scams!

Retort: Well at least I ace all my **exams**! (4th) **M**

Insult: You cause more ruckus than an army of carousers!

Retort: You make more noise when trying to put on your **trousers**! (3rd) **O**

Insult: You win as many battles as a serving wench!

Retort: At least I win more battles than the **French**! (4th) **N**

Insult: You're so overly dramatic that they crowned you drama queen!

Retort: It's only necessary when talking to you because you're not very **keen**. (1st), (2nd) **K, E**

Insult: In the art of sword-fighting, I have no peers!

Retort: Nobody is as bad as you, even with fewer **years**! (1st), (5th) **Y, S**

Insult: You solve puzzles worse than monkeys!

Retort: **Ex: At least I can solve a puzzle without flunkkeys!**