The video to accompany this lesson plan can be found here: http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/shakespeare/unit-1/session-14

Aims: Students will...
• listen for gist and detail in the context of a video on Shakespeare’s life, language and plays.
• understand the meaning, use and modern form of the idiom in a pickle.
• Explore phrases to talk about tricky situations and drunk people.

Task A: Lead in and gist
• Put students in groups and ask them to discuss what they do when they have a problem – and who do they ask for advice?
• Introduce the character of Trinculo from the Tempest - and if you have done the lesson Strange bedfellows, find out what students remember about Trinculo and the Tempest.
• Handout the worksheet and give students time to read the gist question.
• Play the video from start to finish and students answer the question.
• They discuss in pairs and then check as a class.
  Answer: c) both - Trinculo is drunk AND in a difficult situation.

Task B: Detail
• Give students a few minutes to read the questions and then play the video again for students to answer the questions.
• Students discuss answers in pairs and then check answers as a class.

Answers
1) Has King James watched the Tempest before? No, this is the first ever performance.
2) What kind of relationship do King James and his wife have? The Queen tells King James what to do, but she is trying to help him. King James doesn't really listen to her.
3) What do King James and Trinculo have in common? They both enjoy drinking alcohol.
4) What is pickle made of? Vegetables, vinegar and spices.

Task C: Language: in a pickle
• Students read the sentences and discuss the answers in pairs from memory.
• Play the narrator section from 02.11 to 03.04 for students to check answers.

**Answers**
1) These days, when someone says "I'm pickled" what do they mean? **They are drunk.**
2) These days, when someone says "I'm in a pickle" what do they mean? **They are in a tricky situation.**
3) When does Hunger Games actor, Liam Hemsworth, call his brothers - when he is drunk or when he has a problem? **When he's in a pickle, meaning when he has a problem.**

**Task D: In a pickle or pickled?**
• Put students into small groups and tell them to read the phrases and decide which phrases describe a person who is drunk, and which describe a person who is in a tricky situation.
  (You can vary the task by putting the phrases on pieces of paper for students to physically categorise.)
• Students then record the phrases in the correct place in the table. You can ask them to further categorise the second column into 'very drunk', and 'a little drunk'.
• Check answers and ask concept questions to check they've understood each phrase. Then drill the pronunciation.

**Answers**
*In a difficult situation* - in a sticky situation, in a tight spot, in a bind, between a rock and a hard place.
*Completely drunk* - legless, hammered. *A little drunk* - tipsy, merry.

• Practise the phrases with a game from the worksheet **Eight Vocabulary Activities.**

**Task E: Discussion**
• Give students time to prepare and encourage them to use the phrases they've just learnt.
• Tell students to only think of difficult situations they would be happy to share with the class – nothing too personal! (If they don't wish to talk about their own difficult situations they can talk about a friend's or famous person's.)
• Students stand up and form new groups to share their stories.
• Then tell students to decide together which person in the group got into the biggest pickle.
• Focus on good examples of language, and errors to correct.
• **Extra task:** Give each student a role card with an imaginary tricky situation written on it. Students then mingle and give each other advice to help them get out of their pickle!
• As a class, students share the best piece of advice they each received for their problem.
In a pickle: Worksheet one

Task A: Gist

Here’s Trinculo, the jester from The Tempest.

While you watch the video, decide if Trinculo is:

a) very drunk
b) in a difficult situation
c) both a) and b)

Task B: Detail

1) Has King James watched the Tempest before?
2) What kind of relationship do King James and his wife have?
3) What do King James and Trinculo have in common?
4) What is pickle made of?

Task C: In a pickle

1) These days, when someone says I’m pickled what do they mean?

2) These days, when someone says I’m in a pickle what do they mean?

3) When does Hunger Games actor, Liam Hemsworth, call his brothers - when he is drunk or when he has a problem?
In a pickle: Worksheet two

Task D: In a pickle or pickled?

- he's between a rock and a hard place
- he's hammered
- he's tipsy
- he's legless
- he's merry
- he's in a tight spot
- he's in a bind
- he's in a sticky situation

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<th>In a pickle (in a difficult situation)</th>
<th>Pickled (drunk)</th>
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Task E: Discussion

Have you ever got in a pickle?
1) What happened?
2) What did you do to get out of this tight spot?
3) What have you learnt from this sticky situation?