

To name but a few

My parents chose
my first name Laurence
cut by my Dad to Lod
when I was a toddler
unless I misbehaved
and wouldn't say sorry -
then I was Laurie

In Whalebone Lane gravel pit
a crowd of lads called me
a smarmy git, a pheasant plucker
oi, you, mate, mucker
prick, dickhead, wanker, sucker
arse pain, bollock brain, shit face
stupid bastard and silly fucker

On London streets
my mates thought Laurence
was a bit of a joke
for an ordinary bloke
and reduced it to Lol
until I wore winkle pickers
and a flash Italian whistle*
and Laurence was revived
with an effing F -
gender re-aligned to Flaurence
A fun Florentine pun
unless you were the one

* Cockney rhyming slang whistle and flute = suit