

# John McWhorter

linguist, professor

Columbia linguist who makes the mechanics of language riveting, explaining etymology and morphology with infectious enthusiasm and precision.

Rank #6

Elite 10

## Power Words used by John McWhorter

#	Word	Definition / Example
1	<b>morphology</b>	n. 1 the branch of biology that deals with the form and structure of animals and plants; 2 the branch of linguistics that deals with word structure "The morphology of slang is constantly evolving."
3	<b>lexicon</b>	n. a dictionary "Adding a new word to the mental lexicon is a joy."
4	<b>syntax</b>	n. Now Rare orderly or systematic arrangementGram; Linguis. the arrangement of and relationships among words; phrases; and clauses forming sentences; sentence structure the study of thisComput. the structure of statements in a computer languag "Syntax is the scaffolding of human thought."
5	<b>phonology</b>	n. the study of the sound system of a given language and the analysis and classification of its phonemes "Phonology dictates how we perceive music in speech."

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