



# Ken Jennings

Trivia expert known for vast knowledge and vocabulary.

Rank #20

| #  | Word                 | Definition / Example   |
|----|----------------------|--|
| 1  | <b>encyclopedic</b>  | adj. 1 comprehending a wide variety of information; 2 pertaining to or of the nature of an encyclopedia; relating to all branches of knowledge.<br>"His encyclopedic retention spans cartography, ecclesiastical history, and obscure sporting statistics with an evenhandedness that defies deliberate cultivation."                                |
| 2  | <b>mnemonic</b>      | tricks people use to remember things<br>"Mnemonic architecture underlying his retrieval system transforms apparently random knowledge into a navigable and internally connected cognitive landscape."  |
| 3  | <b>trivia</b>        | n. unimportant matters or details<br>"Trivia, properly understood, is not useless knowledge but the connective tissue linking disciplines that specialization has artificially severed from one another."  |
| 4  | <b>autodidactic</b>  | someone who teaches themselves, often outside a traditional school setting<br>"His autodidactic curiosity ranges freely across domains precisely because no institutional curriculum ever prescribed its boundaries or directed its enthusiasms."  |
| 5  | <b>geographical</b>  | adj. of or according to geography with reference to the geography of a particular region Also<br>"Geographical knowledge — capitals, rivers, mountain ranges, obscure archipelagos — provides the spatial framework onto which all other historical knowledge is reliably anchored."   |
| 6  | <b>etymological</b>  | relating to the origin and history of words<br>"Etymological awareness transforms every unfamiliar term into a solvable puzzle whose Latin or Greek components frequently yield the answer before research is required."   |
| 7  | <b>polymath</b>      | n. a person of great learning in several fields of study; polyhistor.<br>"A genuine polymath differs from a mere collector of facts in that the former perceives structural connections the latter's accumulation cannot reveal."  |
| 8  | <b>competitive</b>   | adj. having a strong desire to compete or to succeed<br>"Competitive recall under pressure demands not merely storage but retrieval architecture robust enough to function against anxiety, distraction, and temporal constraint."   |
| 9  | <b>associative</b>   | adj. 1 pertaining to an operation in which the result is the same regardless of the way the elements are grouped; 2 causing union or bringing together<br>"Associative thinking — connecting a clue's surface meaning to its intended referent through lateral rather than direct inference — is the core cognitive skill of championship gameplay." |
| 10 | <b>cartographic</b>  | relating to the creation and study of maps<br>"Cartographic mastery extends in his case from physical geography into the mental mapping of knowledge domains and their unexpected mutual borders."   |
| 11 | <b>bibliographic</b> | a list of books and other works used for research<br>"Bibliographic enthusiasm for the history of reference works — atlases, almanacs, encyclopaedias — reflects a meta-intellectual fascination with how knowledge organises itself."   |
| 12 | <b>pedagogical</b>   | adj. a teacher of children or youth; sometimes one who is dogmatic or overly formal.<br>"Pedagogical instinct in his writing transforms intimidating breadth of knowledge into accessible narrative that invites rather than overwhelms the curious reader."   |
| 13 | <b>serendipitous</b> | adj. come upon or found by accident<br>"Serendipitous connections between apparently unrelated facts produce the distinctive intellectual pleasure that  |

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| 14 | <b>conversational</b> | adj. characteristic of informal spoken language or conversation<br>“Conversational deployment of recondite knowledge — lightly worn rather than ostentatiously displayed — reflects a social intelligence inseparable from his intellectual gifts.”  |
| 15 | <b>humanistic</b>     | adj. 1 of or pertaining to human affairs or nature welfare or values; 2 of or pertaining to the humanities or classical scholarship especially that of the Renaissance<br>“Humanistic conviction that breadth of knowledge cultivates empathy and connection underlies his argument that trivia is, at its best, a form of civilizational literacy.” |