



# Stephen Fry

British writer and actor known for his rich vocabulary and love of language.

Rank #2

Elite 10

#	Word	Definition / Example
1	<b>ebullient</b>	adj. overflowing with fervor or enthusiasm or excitement "His ebullient enthusiasm for language makes even a lecture on grammar feel like a carnival of ideas."
2	<b>pellucid</b>	adj. 1 extremely clear; transparent; 2 expressed simply; easily understood "Good prose, he insists, should be pellucid — letting meaning shine through without obstruction."
3	<b>recondite</b>	adj. difficult to understand; abstruse "He delights in recondite knowledge, unearthing forgotten facts with the joy of a seasoned treasure hunter."
4	<b>serendipitous</b>	adj. come upon or found by accident "The most serendipitous discoveries in literature come from wandering without a destination in mind."
5	<b>felicitous</b>	adj. meeting the requirements of a purpose or situation "A felicitous turn of phrase, he believes, is among the highest pleasures civilisation has yet produced."
6	<b>scintillating</b>	v. 1 to flash or sparkle; 2 to be lively and witty. "His scintillating conversation leaves every dinner guest simultaneously exhausted and exhilarated."
7	<b>capacious</b>	adj. roomy; able to hold a large amount; large in capacity "His capacious memory holds Wodehouse passages, quantum theory, and obscure Victorian gossip in equal measure."
8	<b>euphonious</b>	adj. having a pleasant sound "He chooses words the way a composer chooses notes — always reaching for something euphonious and true."
9	<b>convivial</b>	adj. devoted to feasting or to goodfellowship in eating or drinking "Convivial by nature, he transforms any gathering into a salon buzzing with wit and warm intellectual energy."
10	<b>philological</b>	the study of the history and meaning of words "His philological passion for the history of individual words transforms etymology from footnote into narrative."
11	<b>apophenia</b>	n. the tendency to perceive meaningful connections between unrelated things. "Apophenia — the mind's irresistible compulsion to connect what randomness left unconnected — is the engine of both conspiracy and comedy."
12	<b>ineffable</b>	adj. beyond description; inexpressible; too great for words "There are moments in great poetry, he says, that touch something utterly ineffable — beyond all paraphrase."
13	<b>labyrinthine</b>	adj. 1 resembling a complex system of paths or tunnels in which it is easy to get lost; 2 complicated; tortuous "His labyrinthine anecdotes spiral through history, comedy, and pathos before arriving somewhere unexpected."
14	<b>encomium</b>	n. a formal or discriminating expression of praise "Every book he loves receives an encomium of such infectious enthusiasm that the reader feels personally guilty for not having read it sooner."
15	<b>loquacity</b>	the quality of being very talkative "He defends his celebrated loquacity not as indulgence but as the only honest response to a world this astonishingly rich in material."