

WORDS ABOUT BEING SMART

Precocious_(adj.): Exceptionally intelligent child

Sarah was a **precocious** child, with an early passion for learning.

He was a **precocious** boy, learning Latin at three, reading Greek at four, and writing short stories at seven.

The **precocious** girl quickly mastered the German, Latin and principal Slavonic languages, frequently acting as her father's interpreter at the reception of ambassadors.

Prodigy (n.): One who is very young yet very skilled – a young person endowed with exceptional abilities or talents

The Russian pianist was a child prodigy.

Erudite (adj.): Having or showing great knowledge or learning

The room was full of erudite scholars who made the discussion on astronomy fun and interesting.

As a result of having studied abroad several years, Helen has become quite erudite on the subject of art history.

Astute (Adj.): having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn to one's advantage

Trained at The University of Michigan in law, he developed into an **astute** politician.

The **astute** businessman went from rags to riches with one great idea.

Pedantic (adj.): excessively concerned with minor details and rules or with displaying academic learning; arrogant, meticulous, perfectionistic

His essays are long and too **pedantic** to appeal to a general audience.

Sarah insisted that her bridesmaids all wear not only the same dresses, shoes, and jewelry in her wedding, but also the exact same hairstyle and makeup, even though the bridesmaids had very different hair types and skin colorings. The girls in the wedding became exasperated with how **pedantic** Sarah was being over such small details.