# Millionaire contestant Nicholas Bennett loses £250,000 after lifelines fail at final question



In a captivating episode of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?*, Nicholas Bennett, a contestant from West Hampstead and a University Challenge veteran, faced a daunting question for the £1 million jackpot. The atmosphere in the studio, hosted by Jeremy Clarkson, was charged with anticipation as viewers saw Nicholas deftly navigate through the earlier rounds before reaching the pinnacle of the game.

The critical moment arose when Clarkson presented him with a question: "Which of these words, each coined by a famous writer, was derived from the tale of a fairytale about three princes?" The choices were A) Pandemonium, B) Serendipity, C) Utopia, and D) Yahoo. Faced with uncertainty, Nicholas chose to employ his Ask Jeremy lifeline, hoping for guidance. However, even Clarkson admitted uncertainty over the answer, leaving Nicholas to utilize his final lifeline, Phone A Friend. Unfortunately, his friend's insights were likewise unhelpful.

With £375,000 at stake, Nicholas ultimately chose D) Yahoo, a decision that turned out to be incorrect, as the correct answer was B) Serendipity. Despite the emotional setback, he maintained an optimistic outlook, mentioning with admirable grace, "Still get £125,000." Clarkson responded with surprise, questioning if this might represent one of the biggest losses in the show's history.

This episode reflects the intense, sometimes unforgiving nature of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?*, a game known for its high stakes and strategic decision-making. In a prior episode, contestant Paul Sharpe had also experienced a harrowing elimination, losing a potential £93,000 after misinterpreting a question regarding US state capitals. After employing his lifelines, including a call to his father, Paul locked in Dover as his answer, only to discover that Cambridge was the correct choice. His loss was cushioned by the safety net he had built, but the emotional rollercoaster remained palpable.

There is also ongoing discourse around the dynamics of lifelines on the show. Some viewers have expressed concerns over incidents where lifelines may backfire, questioning the integrity of the show's design. Such situations highlight not only the pressures contestants face but also the strategic depth required to navigate the game effectively. Underpinning this is the show's evolution since its original airing in the UK in the late 1990s, which has seen various adaptations and notable incidents, including cheating scandals that have added a layer of intrigue to its legacy.

As *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* continues to captivate audiences with its blend of knowledge and chance, it serves as a reminder of the unpredictability of live television and the emotional stakes each contestant brings to the hot seat. With another season on the horizon, fans look forward to how future contestants will rise to the challenges that await just as Nicholas and Paul did.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14748591/Who-Wants-Millionaire-contestant-uses-two-lifelines-1m-question-LOSES-tricky-question-YOU-it.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Who_Wants_to_Be_a_Millionaire)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14748591/Who-Wants-Millionaire-contestant-uses-two-lifelines-1m-question-LOSES-tricky-question-YOU-it.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.inkl.com/news/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-star-loses-93k-after-horrifying-blunder)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.inkl.com/news/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-player-nearly-loses-250k-in-lifeline-drama), [[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Ingram)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/tv/article-14037865/Who-Wants-Millionaire-viewers-livid-contestant-stitched-producers-lifeline-totally-backfires.html), [[4]](https://www.inkl.com/news/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-star-loses-93k-after-horrifying-blunder)

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2. <https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/tv/article-14037865/Who-Wants-Millionaire-viewers-livid-contestant-stitched-producers-lifeline-totally-backfires.html> - An article discussing a controversial incident on 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?' where a contestant's use of a lifeline led to unexpected consequences, causing viewers to question the show's integrity and production decisions.
3. <https://www.inkl.com/news/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-player-nearly-loses-250k-in-lifeline-drama> - A report detailing a tense moment on 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?' where a contestant's risky use of a lifeline almost resulted in a significant financial loss, highlighting the high stakes and strategic decisions involved in the game.
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5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Who_Wants_to_Be_a_Millionaire> - A comprehensive overview of the 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?' game show, detailing its history, format, and notable incidents, including instances where contestants have lost significant amounts of money.
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7. <https://theinfolist.com/html/ALL/s/W/Who_Wants_To_Be_A_Millionaire_%28U.S._Game_Show%29.html> - An article providing information about the U.S. version of 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?', including notable incidents and contestants, such as Ken Basin's significant loss after answering the million-dollar question incorrectly.