# Nicholas Bennett suffers historic £375,000 loss on Who Wants to Be a Millionaire final question



In a dramatic turn of events on the iconic game show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?", contestant Nicholas Bennett faced one of the most significant losses in the programme's history after incorrectly answering the £1 million question. The moment unfolded as Bennett, a data analyst from West Hampstead, London, swiftly navigated through the money tree, securing a safety net of £125,000 before reaching the climactic final question.

Presented by Jeremy Clarkson, the show's latest run has seen it continue to be a staple of British entertainment since its revival in 2018, following a hiatus. The format, which offers contestants four lifelines—Phone a Friend, Ask the Audience, Ask Jeremy, and 50:50—allows for strategic gameplay; however, as Bennett's experience illustrates, the stakes can quickly escalate. Clarkson read out the final question: “Which of these words, each coined by a famous writer, was derived from the tale of a fairytale about three princes?” The options were A) Pandemonium, B) Serendipity, C) Utopia, and D) Yahoo.

Bennett found himself uncertain and utilised his first lifeline, "Ask Jeremy", but was met with an unexpected twist; Clarkson admitted he did not know the answer. Subsequently, Bennett used his last available lifeline, calling his friend and roommate for assistance, yet she too was left in the dark. Despite the guidance of two lifelines, Bennett made the fateful decision to lock in “Yahoo.” The revelation of the correct answer, “Serendipity,” brought gasps from the audience and resulted in a staggering £375,000 loss—a choice that could have afforded him a far more substantial prize had he chosen to walk away.

Displaying commendable optimism amidst disappointment, Bennett remarked, “Still get £125,000.” Clarkson, visibly sympathising with him, noted the magnitude of the setback, wondering aloud if it could be the biggest loss in the show's history. The host provided further context, explaining that the term "Serendipity" was coined by Horace Walpole, relating back to "The Three Princes of Serendip".

The loss is a testament to the unpredictable nature of quiz shows, a sentiment echoed by prior contestants. For instance, other infamous moments include Oli Blake's mishap, where an reliance on the audience backfired, leading to considerable financial loss. These incidents highlight the crucial need for strategy and careful decision-making under pressure—a central theme woven throughout the programme’s history.

Over its run since 1998, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" has had its share of dramatic highs and lows, prominently featuring seven individuals who have claimed the £1 million prize. The show, originally hosted by Chris Tarrant, contributes to a rich legacy of both celebrated victories and notorious blunders, including the infamous "Coughing Scandal," where a contestant was convicted of cheating through coded clues from an accomplice.

As the show evolves, the tension and stakes continue to captivate audiences. For Bennett, while the outcome was disappointing, the substantial safety net of £125,000 still offers a moment of relief amidst the thrill of potentially life-changing gameplay.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-nicholas-bennett-1-million-question-b2758220.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-nicholas-bennett-1-million-question-b2758220.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-nicholas-bennett-1-million-question-b2758220.html), [[3]](https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/tv/article-13932253/Who-Wants-Millionaire-final-question-right.html), [[5]](https://www.tvinsider.com/1147378/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-million-dollar-questions/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.metro.co.uk/2021/02/22/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-biggest-blunders-and-fails-14126674/), [[6]](https://www.heraldweekly.com/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-the-coughing-scandal/34)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-nicholas-bennett-1-million-question-b2758220.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-nicholas-bennett-1-million-question-b2758220.html> - Nicholas Bennett, a data analyst from West Hampstead, London, faced the £1 million question on 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?' but answered incorrectly, resulting in a £375,000 loss. Despite using two lifelines—'Ask Jeremy' and 'Phone a Friend'—Bennett chose 'Yahoo' over the correct answer, 'Serendipity'. Host Jeremy Clarkson expressed sympathy, noting the significant loss. Bennett had secured a £125,000 safety net before the final question. The incident marked one of the largest losses in the show's history.
3. <https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/tv/article-13932253/Who-Wants-Millionaire-final-question-right.html> - In a recent episode of 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?', contestant Nicholas Bennett faced the £1 million question but answered incorrectly, leading to a £375,000 loss. Despite using two lifelines—'Ask Jeremy' and 'Phone a Friend'—Bennett chose 'Yahoo' over the correct answer, 'Serendipity'. Host Jeremy Clarkson expressed sympathy, noting the significant loss. Bennett had secured a £125,000 safety net before the final question. The incident marked one of the largest losses in the show's history. ([thisismoney.co.uk](https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/tv/article-13932253/Who-Wants-Millionaire-final-question-right.html?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.metro.co.uk/2021/02/22/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-biggest-blunders-and-fails-14126674/> - 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?' has seen several notable blunders and fails over the years. One such incident involved contestant Oli Blake, who, after using the 'Ask the Audience' lifeline, chose the wrong answer, resulting in a significant loss. This highlights the unpredictable nature of the show and the importance of careful decision-making. ([metro.co.uk](https://metro.co.uk/2021/02/22/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-biggest-blunders-and-fails-14126674/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.tvinsider.com/1147378/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-million-dollar-questions/> - 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?' has featured numerous contestants reaching the $1 million question. While many have succeeded, some have faced significant losses after incorrect answers. For instance, Ken Basin became the first contestant on the US version to miss the million-dollar question, resulting in a $475,000 loss. ([tvinsider.com](https://www.tvinsider.com/1147378/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-million-dollar-questions/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.heraldweekly.com/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-the-coughing-scandal/34> - The 'Coughing Scandal' on 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?' involved Major Charles Ingram, who won the £1 million prize but was later found guilty of cheating. The scandal revolved around the use of coded coughs from an accomplice to signal correct answers. Ingram's case remains one of the most infamous in the show's history. ([heraldweekly.com](https://www.heraldweekly.com/who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire-the-coughing-scandal/34?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Ingram> - Charles Ingram, a former British Army major, gained notoriety for winning £1 million on 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?' in 2001. He was later convicted of cheating after it was discovered that he had used coded coughs from an accomplice to signal correct answers. Ingram's case is one of the most infamous in the show's history. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Ingram?utm_source=openai))