

vagary



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Word of the Day - for Toastmasters everywhere
Wednesday 17th April 2024



vagary

(noun) VAY-ga-ri

Unpredictable, sudden or eccentric change, notion, caprice, whim or whimsy.

It was the costume she had worn one Sabbath day back in her youth, when she had looked across the meeting-house and her eyes had met young Thomas Merriam's; but nobody knew nor remembered; even young Evelina thought it was simply a **vagary** of her dead cousin's.

Mary E. Wilkins Freeman's *Evelina's Garden*.

Gibson's prose, as always, is portentous, crosscutting tough-guy understatement and poetic **vagary**.

Tom Leclair, *The New York Times*, 21 November 1999, New York Times reviewing William Gibson's *All Tomorrow's Parties*.

A principal remaining **vagary** in the e-ticket area is the matter of buying a ticket for someone else at another address.

Betsy Wade, *The New York Times*, 19 November 2000. New York Times

In his two practice rounds, Smith has encountered every **vagary** of Royal St George's[™], a shift in the wind that caused a difference of three clubs from one day to the next, beguiling calm and a savage thunderstorm.

Neil Harman, *Times Online*, 17 July 2003. Times Online

And then he would draw back in fine shades of grey or, as in the lyrical D flat major variation, side-stepping into meditative **vagary** with easeful rubato.

Garrick Ohlsson, *The Times*, 9 December 2002. The Times