

discrete



discrete

Word of the Day - for Toastmasters everywhere
Sunday 22nd November 2020



discrete

(adjective) dis-KREET

Having distinct parts, separate, discontinuous.

McEwan's brilliance as a novelist lies in his ability to isolate **discrete** moments in a life and invest them with indelible significance: the supermarket scene of *The Child in Time*, the balloon disaster of *Enduring Love*.

Tim Adams, *Guardian*, 25 March 2007, *Guardian* reviewing Ian McEwan's *On Chesil Beach*.

Best read as **discrete** stories, their common thread is the victim's-eye view of God's mysterious ways.

Isobel Montgomery, *Guardian*, 17 June 2006, *Guardian* reviewing R.M. Lamming's *As in Eden*.

But the theme that recurs most beguilingly is his exploration of the relationship between dreams and creative inspiration: both are unpredictable, intensely personal and, as one character points out, intangible yet composed from **discrete** building blocks, â€œmade of viewpoints, of images, of memories and puns and lost hopes.â€•

David Itzkoff, *The New York Times*, 5 November 2006, *New York Times* reviewing Neil Gaiman's *Fragile Things: Short Fictions and Wonders*

The co-existence of musical brilliance with linguistic ineptitude indicates that the brain machinery responsible for these related attributes is **discrete** and partitioned.

Adrian Woolfson, *Telegraph*, 17 July 2005 *Telegraph* reviewing Steven Mithen's *The Singing Neanderthals: The Origins of Music, Language, Mind and Body*.