

# Trenchant *(pronounced tren-chunt) adjective*

## Definition

*1. keen, sharp, or incisive (as in manner or expression); vigorous and highly effective in language or style. 2. penetrating; extremely perceptive and discerning. 3. caustic or cutting. 4. distinct; clear-cut.*

## Main Example

- You may have noticed that Norm Ornstein is the preferred guest on media channels A to Z to explain--and predict--the goings-on in Congress. Similarly, to help us make sense of other national political theaters, David Gergen appears to be ubiquitous. Why the same faces? Presumably because people like Ornstein and Gergen have the most **trenchant** views in their respective areas of expertise.

## Workplace Examples

- I'm afraid this idea of opening an office in Singapore is on hold for now. Peter's arguments against it were so well articulated, so **trenchant**, that the CEO decided to put the proposal on the back burner.
- I don't think there's anything ambiguous about her plan. The steps she outlined were quite **trenchant**. They were clear, and pretty specific.

## Other Examples

- upon observing a colleague's silence during a long meeting, somebody saying with humor: "Mary Ann, you haven't said a word! I'm sure you have some **trenchant** comments?"
- the 9/11 Commission being charged with the task of asking the **trenchant** questions necessary to unearth why the Sept. 11 attacks caught us off guard
- Bill Gross of Pimco attaining rock star status because of his **trenchant** analyses of the bond market
- pointing to a 2002 investigation in Illinois that resulted in 13 death row inmates being found innocent, death-penalty opponents saying the cases **trenchantly** demonstrate that the system of capital punishment is fraught with serious and irreversible errors
- the late Gene Siskel, a most **trenchant** film critic because of his ability to come up with noteworthy points that most other critics overlooked