

## Vocabulary Study: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

### Teacher Overview

### Grades 10-12

#### Lesson Introduction/Overview

##### Section One: Vocabulary words, definitions, and quotations

An alphabetical list of the ten words in each set of chapters is given at the beginning. The first word and definition in each definition box is the actual word that has been used in the text. The words and quotations from the novel are given in order as they occur in the plot.

##### Section Two: Fill-in-the-Blank Activity

The sentences in this activity are specific to each set of chapters written for the most part in order as events happen. The activity is meant to aid instruction and understanding of the plot line, as well as provide a check for vocabulary comprehension. This strategy provides an assessment that is more difficult and challenging than simply matching ten words with ten blanks.

##### Section Three: Complete List of Words: *The Great Gatsby*

This is an alphabetical listing of all sixty words in the study unit.

##### Section Four: Multiple Choice Exam

The students will be tested on 25 of the 60 words listed. Students are encouraged to study all 60 words to be ready for the test. The form of the answer may be or may not be as given in the list, as in the Fill-in-the-Blank Activity. The answer may be one of the derivatives of the word.

##### Section Five: Writing Activity

This activity might be used at the end of the study of *The Great Gatsby*. It is an AP-style essay prompt based on events in the novel. Encourage your students to use some of the vocabulary words in their essays. This essay assignment can be a forty-minute timed in-class assignment or a take home assignment.

#### Acknowledgment

The words, definitions, and quotations in the first section are given in order as they appear in the Scribner Classic Authorized Text 1992 version, with notes and a preface by Matthew J. Brucoli.

#### Materials and Resources

- Copies of lessons for each student
- Copies of *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (text 1992 Scribner classic, Authorized text)

### Complete List of Vocabulary Words for *The Great Gatsby*

ambiguously	innuendo
benediction	insidious
commensurate	intermittent
complacently	intimation
conscientious	juxtaposition
contemptuous	languid
contiguous	nebulous
convivial	obstinate
countenance	pasquinade
debauchee	pastoral
deft	permeate
defunct	portentous
dilatory	provincial
dissension	punctilious
divergence	rancor
divot	redolent
erroneous	reproach
façade	somnambulatory
facet	strident
feign	sumptuous
fluctuate	supercilious
fortuitously	superfluous
fractious	surmise
garrulous	tumult
hauteur	turgid
humidor	unobtrusive
imperceptible	vacuous
impetuously	vehemently
incessantly	vestibule
ineffable	vestige

***Answer keys for the sentence completion and multiple choice quizzes for this lesson are not included in open source materials. As the teacher of record, you may obtain copies of these answer keys by sending a message from your school email address to the NMSI help desk at [HelpDesk@nms.org](mailto:HelpDesk@nms.org). Include your name, course taught, the name of your school, and your city and state.***

## Vocabulary Study

### *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

*Note: The words, definitions, and quotations in the first section are given in order as they appear in the Scribner Classic Authorized Text 1992 version, with notes and a preface by Matthew J. Brucoli.*

#### Chapter One

complacent  
conscientious  
contemptuous  
feign  
fractious

imperceptible  
intimation  
reproach  
supercilious  
unobtrusive

1. **feign** (feyn) *v.* to put on a show of (a quality or emotion); pretend, to make up; invent  
derivatives: feigner, feigningly  
“Most of the confidences were unsought—frequently I have **feigned** sleep . . .” (5).

2. **reproach**(ri-**prohch**) *v.* to find fault with (a person, group, etc.); blame; censure; to upbraid.  
derivatives: reproachable, reproachableness, reproachably, reproacher, reproachingly, unreproachable, unreproachably, unreproached, unreproaching  
“His family was enormously wealthy—even in college his freedom with money was a matter for **reproach** . . .” (10).

3. **supercilious** (soo-per-sil-ee-uh s) *adj.* displaying arrogant pride, scorn  
derivatives: superciliously, superciliousness  
“Now he was a sturdy, straw haired man of thirty with a rather hard mouth and a **supercilious** manner” (11).

4. **fractious** (frak-shuh s) *adj.* irritable; unruly  
derivatives: fractiously, fractiousness  
“His speaking voice, a gruff husky tenor, added to the impression of **fractiousness** he conveyed” (11).

5. **conscientious** (kon-shee-en-shuh s) *adj.* involving or taking great care; painstaking; diligent

derivatives: conscientiously, conscientiousness

“The other girl, Daisy, made an attempt to rise—she leaned slightly forward with a **conscientious** expression—then she laughed, an absurd, charming little laugh, and I laughed too and came forward into the room” (13).

6. **imperceptible** (im-per-sep-tuh-buhl) *adj.* too slight, subtle, gradual, etc., to be perceived

derivatives: imperceptibility, imperceptibleness, imperceptibly

“At any rate Miss Baker’s lips fluttered, she nodded at me almost **imperceptibly** and then quickly tipped her head back again . . .” (13).

7. **unobtrusive** (uhn-uh b-troo-siv) *adj.* not obtrusive; inconspicuous, unassertive, or reticent.

derivatives: unobtrusively, unobtrusiveness

“Sometimes she and Miss Baker talked at once, **unobtrusively** and with a bantering inconsequence that was never quite chatter . . .” (16).

8. **complacent** (kuh m-pley-suh nt) *adj.* pleased, esp. with oneself or one’s merits, advantages, situation, etc., often without awareness of some potential danger or defect; self-satisfied

derivatives: complacently, noncomplacent

“There was something pathetic in his concentration as if his **complacency**, more acute than of old, was not enough to him any more” (18).

9. **contemptuous** (kuh n-temp-choo-uh s) *adj.* showing or expressing contempt or disdain; scornful.

derivatives: contemptuously, contemptuousness

“I knew now why her face was familiar—its pleasing **contemptuous** expression had looked out at me from many rotogravure pictures of the sporting life at Asheville and Hot Springs and Palm Beach” (23).

10. **intimation** (in-tuh-mey- shun) *n.* a hint or suggestion

derivative: intimate

“But I didn’t call to him for he gave a sudden **intimation** that he was content to be alone . . .” (25).

## Chapter Two

ambiguously  
contiguous  
countenance  
deft  
hauteur

incessant  
languid  
pastoral  
strident  
sumptuous

1. **contiguous** (kuh n-**tig**-yoo-uh s) *adj.* touching; in contact; in close proximity without actually touching; near; adjacent in time

derivatives: contiguity, contiguousness, contiguously

“The only building in sight was a small block of yellow brick sitting on the edge of the waste land, a sort of compact Main Street ministering to it and **contiguous** to absolutely nothing” (28–29).

2. **sumptuous** (suhmp-choo-uh s) *adj.* expensive or extravagant; magnificent; splendid

derivatives: sumptuously, sumptuousness, sumptuosity

“It had occurred to me that this shadow of a garage must be a blind and that **sumptuous** and romantic apartments were concealed overhead . . .” (29).

3. **pastoral** (pas-ter-uh l) *adj.* of, characterized by, or depicting rural life, scenery, etc.

derivatives: pastorals, pastorally

“We drove over to Fifth Avenue, so warm and soft, almost **pastoral**, on the summer Sunday afternoon . . .” (32).

4. **countenance** (koun-tn-uh ns) *n.* the face, especially when considered as expressing a person’s character or mood

derivative: countenancer

“Looked at from a distance however the hen resolved itself into a bonnet and the **countenance** of a stout old lady beamed down into the room” (33).

5. **incessant** (in-ses-uh nt) *adj.* not ceasing; continual

derivatives: incessancy, incessantness, incessantly

“When she moved about there was an **incessant** clicking as innumerable pottery bracelets jingled up and down upon her arms” (34).

6. **languid** (lang-gwid) *adj.* without energy or spirit; without interest or enthusiasm; sluggish; inactive

derivatives: languidly, languidness

“His wife was shrill, **languid**, handsome and horrible” (34).

7. **hauteur** (hoh-tur) *n.* haughty manner or spirit; arrogance

derivatives: haughty, haughtiness

“The intense vitality that had been so remarkable in the garage was converted into impressive **hauteur**” (35).

9. **strident** (strahyd-nt) *adj.* (of a shout, voice, etc.) having or making a loud or harsh sound; urgent, clamorous

derivatives: stridence, stridency, stridently

“... each time I tried to go I became entangled in some wild **strident** argument which pulled me back, as if with ropes, into my chair” (40).

10. **deft** (deft) *adj.* dexterous; nimble; skillful; clever

derivatives: deftly, deftness

“Making a short **deft** movement Tom Buchanan broke her nose with his open hand” (41).

### Chapter Three

convivial  
dissension  
divergence  
erroneous  
impetuously

innuendo  
permeate  
provincial  
vacuous  
vehemently

1. **permeate** (**pur**-mee-yet) *v.* to penetrate or pervade

derivatives: permeation, permeative

“The bar is in full swing and floating rounds of cocktails **permeate** the garden outside until the air is alive with chatter and laughter and casual innuendo . . .” (44).

2. **erroneous** (uh-**roh**-nee-uh s, e-**roh**-) *adj.* containing error; mistaken; incorrect; wrong

derivatives: erroneously, erroneousness

“. . . there was a burst of chatter as the **erroneous** news goes around that she is Gilda Gray’s understudy from the ‘Follies’” (45).

3. **vehement** (**vee**-uh-muh nt) *adj.* marked by intensity of feeling or conviction; emphatic; (of actions, gestures, etc.) characterized by great energy, vigor, or force; furious

derivatives: vehemence, vehemently

“. . . the two or three people of whom I asked his whereabouts stared at me in such an amazed way and denied so **vehemently** any knowledge of his movements that I slunk off in the direction of the cocktail table . . .” (46).

4. **innuendo** (in-yoo-**en**-doh) *n.* an indirect or subtle reference, esp. one made maliciously or indicating criticism or disapproval; insinuation

derivatives: none

“There were three married couples and Jordan’s escort, a persistent undergraduate given to violent **innuendo** and obviously under the impression that sooner or later Jordan was going to yield him up her person . . .” (49).

5. **impetuous** (im-**pech**-oo-uh s) *adj.* liable to act without consideration; rash; impulsive  
derivatives: impetuously, impetuousness, impetuosity

“‘What do you think?’ he demanded **impetuously**” (49).

6. **vacuous** (**vak**-yoo-uh s) *adj.* containing nothing; empty; bereft of ideas or intelligence; mindless

derivatives: vacuously, vacuousness

“... between the numbers people were doing ‘stunts’ all over the garden while happy **vacuous** bursts of laughter rose toward the summer sky” (51).

7. **provincial** (pruh-**vin**-shuh l) *adj.* having attitudes and opinions supposedly common to people living in the provinces; rustic or unsophisticated; limited

derivatives: provinciality, provincially

“But young men didn’t—at least in my **provincial** inexperience I believed they didn’t—drift coolly out of nowhere and buy a palace on Long Island Sound” (54).

8. **convivial** (kuh n-**viv**-ee-uh l) *adj.* sociable; jovial or festive

derivatives: convivialist, conviviality, convivially

“... girls were putting their heads on men’s shoulders in a puppyish, **convivial** way, girls were swooning backward playfully into men’s arms, even into groups knowing that someone would arrest their falls . . .” (55).

9. **dissension** (dih-**sen**-shuh n) *n.* strong disagreement; a contention or quarrel; discord

derivatives: none

“Even Jordan’s party, the quartet from East Egg, were rent asunder by **dissension**” (56).

10. **divergence** (dih-**vur**-juh ns, dahy-) *n.* the act of moving, lying, or extending in different directions from a common point; branch off

derivatives: divergent, divergency

“Jordan Baker instinctively avoided clever shrewd men and now I saw that this was because she felt safer on a plane where any **divergence** from a code would be thought impossible” (63).

### Chapters Four and Five

benediction  
defunct  
façade  
fluctuate  
juxtaposition

nebulous  
obstinate  
punctilious  
somniaambulatory  
vestige

1. **fluctuate** (**fluhk**-choo-eyt) *v.* to change or cause to change position constantly; be or make unstable; waver or vary

derivative: fluctuation

“... it meant he was cleaned out and Associated Traction would have to **fluctuate** profitably next day” (67).

2. **punctilious** (puhngk-**til**-ee-uhs) *adj.* paying scrupulous attention to correctness in etiquette; attentive to detail

derivatives: punctiliously, punctiliousness

“This quality was continually breaking through his **punctilious** manner in the shape of restlessness” (68).

3. **somniaambulate** (som-**nam**-byuh-leyt, suh m-) *v.* to walk while asleep

derivatives: somniaambulance, somniaambulant, somniaambulation, somniaambulator, somniaambulatory

“Mr. Wolfshiem swallowed a new sentence he was starting and lapsed into a **somniaambulatory** abstraction” (74).

4. **juxtaposition** (juhk-stuh-puh-**zish**-uh n) *n.* an act or instance of placing close together or side by side, esp. for comparison or contrast

derivatives: none

“The **juxtaposition** of these two remarks was startling. Gatsby answered for me” (75).

5. **benediction** (ben-i-**dik**-shuhn) *n.* an invocation of divine blessing; a prayer at the end of a religious ceremony

derivatives: none

“Don’t hurry, Meyer,’ said Gatsby, without enthusiasm. Mr. Wolfshiem raised his hand in a sort of benediction” (77).

6. **façade** (fuh-**sahd**) *n.* the face of a building, esp. the main front

derivatives: none

“We passed a barrier of dark trees, and then the façade of Fifty-ninth Street, a block of delicate pale light, beamed down into the Park” (85).

7. **defunct** (dih-**fuhngkt**) *adj.* no longer living or operative; dead or extinct

derivatives: defunctive, defunctness

“His head leaned back so far that it rested against the face of a **defunct** mantelpiece clock and from this position his distraught eyes stared down at Daisy . . .” (91).

8. **obstinate** (ob-stuh-nit) *adj.* adhering fixedly to a particular opinion, attitude, course of action, etc.; self-willed or headstrong

derivative: obstinately

“Americans, while occasionally willing to be serfs, have always been **obstinate** about being peasantry” (93).

9. **vestige** (ves-tij) *n.* a small trace, mark, or amount; hint

derivatives: vestigial

“They were sitting at either end of the couch looking at each other as if some question had been asked or was in the air, and every **vestige** of embarrassment was gone” (94).

10. **nebulous** (neb-yuh-luh-s) *adj.* lacking definite form, shape, or content

derivatives: nebulously, nebulousness

“He was now decently clothed in a ‘sport-shirt’ open at the neck, sneakers and duck trousers of a **nebulous** hue” (100).

## Chapters Six and Seven

contingency  
debauchee  
dilatory  
ineffable  
insidious

intermittent  
portentous  
rancor  
tumult  
turgid

1. **insidious** (in-sid-ee-uh s) *adj.* stealthy, subtle, cunning, or treacherous

derivatives: insidiously, insidiousness

“... he saw Dan Cody’s yacht drop anchor over the most **insidious** flat on Lake Superior” (104).
2. **ineffable** (in-ef-uh-buhl) *adj.* too great or intense to be expressed in words; unutterable

derivatives: ineffability, ineffableness, ineffably

“A universe of **ineffable** gaudiness spun itself out in his brain while the clock ticked on the wash-stand and the moon soaked with wet light his tangled clothes upon the floor” (105).
3. **turgid** (tur-jid) *adj.* overblown, inflated, or pompous

derivatives: turgidity, turgidness, turgidly

“The none too savory ramifications by which Ella Kaye, the newspaper woman, played Madame de Maintenon to his weakness and sent him to sea in a yacht, were common knowledge to the **turgid** journalism of 1902” (105–106).
4. **debauchee** (deb-aw-chee) *n.* a man who leads a life of reckless drinking, promiscuity and self-indulgence

derivatives: debauchery

“I remember the portrait of him up in Gatsby’s bedroom, a grey, florid man with a hard empty face—the pioneer **debauchee** who during one phase of American life brought back to the eastern seaboard the savage violence of the frontier brothel and saloon” (106).
5. **dilatory** (dil-uh-tawr-ee) *adj.* tending or inclined to delay or waste time

derivatives: dilatorily, dilatoriness

“The **dilatory** limousine came rolling up the drive” (115).

6. **contingency** (kuh n-**tin**-juh n-see) *n.* a possible but not very likely future event or condition; eventuality

derivatives: none

“The immediate **contingency** overtook him, pulled him back from the edge of the theoretical abyss” (128).

7. **portentous** (pohr-**ten**-tuh s) *adj.* of momentous or ominous significance

derivatives: portentously, portentousness

“. . . we were listening to the **portentous** chords of Mendelssohn’s Wedding March from the ballroom below” (134).

8. **intermittent** (in-ter-**mit**-nt) *adj.* occurring occasionally or at regular or irregular intervals; periodic

derivatives: intermittence, intermittency, intermittently

“The music had died down as the ceremony began and now a long cheer floated in at the window, followed by **intermittent** cries of ‘Yea—ea—ea!’ and finally by a burst of jazz as the dancing began” (135).

9. **rancor** (**rang**-ker) *n.* malicious resentfulness or hostility; spite

derivatives: rancorous, rancorously, rancorousness

“Her voice was cold but the **rancor** was gone from it” (139).

10. **tumult** (**too**-muh lt) *n.* a loud confused noise, as of a crowd; commotion

derivatives: tumultuous, tumultuousness

“Tom talked incessantly, exulting and laughing, but his voice was as remote from Jordan and me as the foreign clamor on the sidewalk or the **tumult** of the elevated overhead” (143).

## Chapters Eight and Nine

commensurate  
divot  
fortuitous  
garrulous  
humidor

pasquinade  
redolent  
superfluous  
surmise  
vestibule

1. **humidor** (**hyoo**-mi-dawr or **yoo**-) *n.* a humid place or container for storing cigars, tobacco, etc.

derivatives: none

“I found the **humidor** on an unfamiliar table with two stale dry cigarettes inside” (155).

2. **redolent** (**red**-l-uh nt) *adj.* having a pleasant smell; fragrant

derivatives: redolence, redolency, redolently

“There was a ripe mystery about it, a hint of bedrooms upstairs more beautiful and cool than other bedrooms, of gay and radiant activities taking place through its corridors and of romances that were not musty and laid away already in lavender but fresh and breathing and **redolent** of this year’s shining motor cars and of dances whose flowers were scarcely withered” (155–156).

3. **divot** (**div**-uh t) *n.* a piece of turf dug out of a grass surface, esp by a golf club or by horses’ hooves

derivatives: none

“Usually her voice came over the wire as something fresh and cool as if a **divot** from a green golf links had come sailing in at the office window but this morning it seemed harsh and dry” (162).

4. **garrulous** (**gar**-uh-luh s) *adj.* given to constant and frivolous chatter; loquacious; talkative; wordy or diffuse

derivatives: garrulously, garrulousness, garrulity

“I supposed there’d be a curious crowd around there all day with little boys searching for dark spots in the dust and some **garrulous** man telling over and over what had happened until it became less and less real even to him and he could tell it no longer . . .” (163).

5. **fortuitous** (fawr-**too**-i-tuhs) *adj.* happening by chance, esp. by a lucky chance; unplanned; accidental

derivatives: fortuitously, fortuitousness

“A new world, material without being real, where poor ghosts, breathing dreams like air, drifted **fortuitously** about . . . like that ashen, fantastic figure gliding toward him through the amorphous trees” (169).

6. **pasquinade** (pas-kwuh-**neyd**) *n.* an abusive lampoon or satire, esp. one posted in a public place

derivatives: none

“I thought the whole tale would shortly be served up in racy **pasquinade**—but Catherine, who might have said anything, didn’t say a word” (171).

7. **surmise** (ser-**mahyz**) *v.* to infer (something) from incomplete or uncertain evidence

derivatives: surmisable, surmiser

“From the moment I telephoned news of the catastrophe to West Egg Village, every **surmise** about him, and every practical question, was referred to me” (172).

8. **superfluous** (soo-**pur**-floo-uh s) *adj.* exceeding what is sufficient or required; not necessary or relevant

derivatives: superfluously, superfluousness

“That request seemed **superfluous** when I wrote it” (173).

9. **vestibule** (ves-tuh-byool) *n.* a small entrance hall or anteroom; lobby

derivative: vestibular

“We drew in deep breaths of it as we walked back from dinner through the cold **vestibules**, unutterably aware of our identity with this country for one strange hour before we melted indistinguishably into it again” (184).

10. **commensurate** (kuh-**men**-ser-it) *adj.* having the same measure, corresponding in amount, magnitude or degree

derivatives: commensurately, commensurateness, commensuration

“. . . man must have held his breath in the presence of this continent, . . . face to face for the last time in history with something **commensurate** to his capacity for wonder” (189).

### Complete List of Vocabulary Words for *The Great Gatsby*

ambiguously	innuendo
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commensurate	intermittent
complacently	intimation
conscientious	juxtaposition
contemptuous	languid
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fortuitously	superfluous
fractious	surmise
garrulous	tumult
hauteur	turgid
humidor	unobtrusive
imperceptible	vacuous
impetuously	vehemently
incessantly	vestibule
ineffable	vestige

***The Great Gatsby***  
**Fill-in-the-Blank Activity**  
**Chapter One**

complacent  
conscientious  
contemptuous  
feign  
fractious

imperceptible  
intimation  
reproach  
supercilious  
unobtrusive

1. Gatsby \_\_\_\_\_ indifference to Daisy's presence in Nick's living room.
2. Jordan's manner toward those she feels are beneath her shows a \_\_\_\_\_ nature similar to most inhabitants of West Egg.
3. Tom's \_\_\_\_\_ behavior foreshadows his later unacceptable treatment of the women in his life.
4. Despite the \_\_\_\_\_ that she is unhappy, Daisy keeps up the appearance of Tom's happy wife.
5. At first Daisy seems \_\_\_\_\_ about the fact that Tom might be involved with someone else, but she does become irritated when he accepts a call as they are about to begin dinner.
6. During Nick's visit to Tom and Daisy's home, he senses the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of Jordan's stare because he is not one of the elite.
7. The tension between Tom and Gatsby is \_\_\_\_\_ until the outburst of anger occurs in the hotel.
8. In an \_\_\_\_\_ way, Daisy moves away from Tom and closer to her friend Jordan.
9. Daisy's \_\_\_\_\_ look at her husband lets him know she suspects him of being unfaithful.
10. Nick is \_\_\_\_\_ about making sure he speaks politely to each person, regardless of whether or not they are kind in return.

***The Great Gatsby***  
**Fill-in-the-Blank Activity**  
**Chapter Two**

ambiguously  
contiguous  
countenance  
deft  
hauteur

incessant  
languid  
pastoral  
strident  
sumptuous

1. Mildred gives the indication that her life mirrors the \_\_\_\_\_ trappings of those more financially stable than she is.
2. In opposition to Wilson's calm demeanor, his wife's \_\_\_\_\_ voice grates on Nick's nerves.
3. The vibrancy of the city is a direct contrast to the \_\_\_\_\_ life in West Egg.
4. With a gesture of grand \_\_\_\_\_, Mildred gives the impression that she believes herself part of the rich and famous.
5. The lines between West Egg and East Egg are sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ and blurred.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ and without energy, Catherine seems disinclined to entertain her guests.
7. The tracks of the train are \_\_\_\_\_ to the streets of the busy city.
8. The gigantic, blue eyes of Doctor Eckleburg blur the rest of his \_\_\_\_\_ on the billboard at the entrance of the Valley of Ashes.
9. At Catherine's apartment, the women chatter \_\_\_\_\_ as the men try to find topics to discuss.
10. Despite's Tom's hulking appearance, he could move \_\_\_\_\_ and attack at a moment's notice.

***The Great Gatsby***  
**Fill-in-the-Blank Activity**  
**Chapter Three**

convivial  
dissension  
divergence  
erroneous  
impetuously

innuendo  
permeate  
provincial  
vacuous  
vehemently

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of Gatsby's past indiscretions seem to fascinate the guests at his lavish parties.
2. Nick feels \_\_\_\_\_ when he compares himself to the wealthy men and sophisticated women who strive to impress Gatsby.
3. With a/an \_\_\_\_\_ toss of her head, Jordan moves away from Nick and into the crowd.
4. Most of the guests who attend Gatsby's parties only appear to be \_\_\_\_\_; most of them are quite miserable despite their wealth.
5. One of the guests at the party \_\_\_\_\_ opposes the music played by the orchestra and moves to interrupt the conductor.
6. The girl in yellow, a \_\_\_\_\_ look in her eyes, makes an attempt to convince Jordan they know one another and tries to engage her in mindless gossip.
7. Some of the men cause \_\_\_\_\_ in their marriages when they insist their wives leave the party early.
8. One woman offers a/an \_\_\_\_\_ suggestion that Gatsby had a violent past and should be held at arm's length, an ironic situation since she enjoys his parties and does not miss one.
9. Rather than sharing too much personal information about his past, Gatsby leads the conversation down a path of \_\_\_\_\_ to stories of the war or Oxford.
10. The jovial atmosphere of Gatsby's party \_\_\_\_\_ all the guests and they talk loudly, drink too much, and pretend to have fun.

***The Great Gatsby***  
**Fill-in-the-Blank Activity**  
**Chapters Four and Five**

benediction  
defunct  
façade  
fluctuate  
juxtaposition

nebulous  
obstinate  
punctilious  
somnambulatory  
vestige

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the building shows an era that once had grandeur and expectations.
2. If Jay Gatsby's stories about his past start to bore the listener, the person would lapse into a \_\_\_\_\_ state of inattention.
3. Gatsby's explanation of his background seems to \_\_\_\_\_ from tales of fighting in the war to attending Oxford for his schooling.
4. With all the \_\_\_\_\_ of truth, Gatsby convinces Nick that his wealth comes from legitimate means.
5. Wolfshiem, a \_\_\_\_\_ gentleman, trusts in his friendship with Gatsby, explaining to Nick that their common ground is based on similar breeding and respect.
6. When Daisy receives the letter from Jay, she holds the now \_\_\_\_\_ piece of paper in her trembling fingers, believing he is lost to her forever.
7. Jordan recalls how Daisy met Tom and includes her \_\_\_\_\_ belief that this man, despite his violent nature, will treat her well.
8. Nick, in considering the \_\_\_\_\_ of Wolfshiem and Gatsby, cannot readily understand their connection, yet he respects both men and sees true friendship.
9. Though Daisy seems to have only a \_\_\_\_\_ recollection that she and Tom were once truly in love, she does have the child she always wanted.
10. Wolfshiem offers a \_\_\_\_\_ at the table when he meets Jay and Nick for lunch.

***The Great Gatsby***  
**Fill-in-the-Blank Activity**  
**Chapters Six and Seven**

contingency  
debauchee  
dilatory  
ineffable  
insidious

intermittent  
portentous  
rancor  
tumult  
turgid

1. Mildred devises a/an \_\_\_\_\_ plan to take Tom from Daisy.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ accounts of Jay Gatsby's exploits are prevalent among West Egg's well-to-do.
3. When Jay and Daisy dance together, the atmosphere is filled with \_\_\_\_\_ joy.
4. In her typical \_\_\_\_\_ manner, Daisy postpones any decisions concerning her feelings about Gatsby.
5. Daisy's eventual declaration of love for Jay causes a \_\_\_\_\_ reaction from Tom.
6. Tom internalizes much \_\_\_\_\_ toward the man he recognizes as his rival for Daisy's love.
7. Jay's reputation as a \_\_\_\_\_ does not have much credence, yet there are some who choose to believe the rumors.
8. The party's visit to the Wilson's garage has a \_\_\_\_\_ feel to it—a feeling that should not be ignored.
9. Even the wealthy of West Egg cannot be prepared for every \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Through the night, Jay and Daisy dance \_\_\_\_\_ until he finally decides to stop and show his love for her—he kisses her.

***The Great Gatsby***  
**Fill-in-the-Blank Activity**  
**Chapters Eight and Nine**

commensurate  
divot  
fortuitous  
garrulous  
humidor

pasquinade  
redolent  
superfluous  
surmise  
vestibule

1. Gatsby would never stand by and worry about a \_\_\_\_\_ that might ridicule him and his past.
2. Although it keeps the tobacco from drying out, Jay's \_\_\_\_\_ looks unused and dusty.
3. The atmosphere of the luscious garden is filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the beautiful roses, yet Jay longs for the fragrance of Daisy's hair.
4. Jay is anything but \_\_\_\_\_, keeping his most intimate thoughts to himself.
5. The people who clean up after the accident do a \_\_\_\_\_ job, yet Wilson is still left to search for the driver of the yellow car.
6. Jay's reunion with Daisy is the most \_\_\_\_\_ thing that happens to him in his entire, sometimes questionable, life.
7. Nick \_\_\_\_\_ that the love between Daisy and Jay cannot exist beyond the month they have together.
8. The spiked heels of the elegantly dressed women leave \_\_\_\_\_ in Gatsby's manicured lawn as they leave the party.
9. When the police come to tell Catherine of Mildred's unexpected tragic death, they must wait in the \_\_\_\_\_ until she can come to the door.
10. By the end of the novel, there is growing recognition that the wealthy expect the law to be \_\_\_\_\_ with their status in society.

*The Great Gatsby*  
**Multiple Choice Test**

1. with intense feeling
  - a. commensurately
  - b. vehemently
  - c. complacently
  - d. erroneously
  - e. conscientiously
2. peaceful; simple
  - a. debauch
  - b. dilatory
  - c. portentous
  - d. strident
  - e. pastoral
3. a deceiving front
  - a. divergence
  - b. nebulous
  - c. façade
  - d. turgid
  - e. vehement
4. weakly, sluggishly
  - a. redolently
  - b. erroneous
  - c. portentously
  - d. vehemently
  - e. languidly
5. very careful and exact
  - a. sumptuous
  - b. superfluous
  - c. punctilious
  - d. supercilious
  - e. contiguous
6. vague or confused
  - a. ambiguous
  - b. convivial
  - c. defunct
  - d. languid
  - e. nebulous
7. skillful, dexterous
  - a. convivial
  - b. deft
  - c. dilatory
  - d. impetuous
  - e. imperceptible
8. having ceased to exist or live
  - a. defunct
  - b. ambiguous
  - c. dilatory
  - d. pastoral
  - e. fractious
9. to walk when asleep
  - a. feign
  - b. pasquinade
  - c. fluctuate
  - d. somnambulate
  - e. permeate
10. visible trace, evidence of past existence
  - a. façade
  - b. vestige
  - c. divot
  - d. innuendo
  - e. reproach
11. to vary irregularly
  - a. permeate
  - b. rancor
  - c. portentous
  - d. unobtrusive
  - e. fluctuate
12. pompous, overblown
  - a. commensurate
  - b. convivial
  - c. turgid
  - d. feign
  - e. imperceptible

13. a possibility  
a. contingency  
b. reproach  
c. superfluity  
d. tumult  
e. vestibule
14. intended to delay; postpone  
a. juxtapose  
b. unobtrusive  
c. dilatory  
d. somnambulatory  
e. fluctuate
15. stopping and starting at intervals;  
a. contiguous  
b. commensurate  
c. garrulous  
d. intermittent  
e. conscientious
16. suggesting great expense  
a. redolent  
b. sumptuous  
c. tumult  
d. benediction  
e. countenance
17. one of numerous aspects  
a. facet  
b. benediction  
c. humidor  
d. façade  
e. vestibule
18. devoid of matter; empty  
a. ambiguous  
b. vacuous  
c. erroneous  
d. complacent  
e. defunct
19. troublesome or quarrelsome  
a. contiguous  
b. convivial  
c. fractious  
d. deft  
e. imperceptible
20. place side by side for comparison  
a. pasquinade  
b. pastoral  
c. nebulous  
d. juxtapose  
e. punctilious
21. beyond what is required or sufficient  
a. divergence  
b. superfluous  
c. vehement  
d. contiguous  
e. intermittent
22. narrow-minded; limited in outlook  
a. erroneous  
b. ambiguous  
c. convivial  
d. dilatory  
e. provincial
23. sly; subtly seductive  
a. feign  
b. fortuitous  
c. insidious  
d. contiguous  
e. ambiguous
24. fragrant; reminiscent  
a. redolent  
b. ineffable  
c. portentous  
d. unobtrusive  
e. garrulous

25. continuing without interruption
- a. incessant
  - b. conscientious
  - c. supercilious
  - d. turgid
  - e. strident

## Writing Activity

In *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald has the reader consider people's dissatisfaction with their lives for a number of possible reasons. Below are two quotes, one from Chapter Six, the second from the end of the novel. In a well-written essay, discuss Fitzgerald's use of diction and imagery to explain his attitude toward identity and the power of the past.

“The truth was that Jay Gatsby, of West Egg, Long Island, sprang from his Platonic conception of himself. He was a son of God—a phrase which, if it means anything, means just that—and he must be about His Father's business, the service of a vast, vulgar, and meretricious beauty. So he invented just the sort of Jay Gatsby that a seventeen year old boy would be likely to invent, and to this conception he was faithful to the end” (Chapter 6).

“And as I sat there brooding on the old, unknown world, I thought of Gatsby's wonder when he first picked out the green light at the end of Daisy's dock. He had come a long way to this blue lawn, and his dream must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail to grasp it. He did not know that it was already behind him, somewhere back in that vast obscurity beyond the city, where the dark fields of the republic rolled on under the night.

Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that's no matter—to-morrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther . . . And one fine morning——

So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past” (Chapter 9).