

The Great Gatsby
By F. Scott Fitzgerald

Chapters 7, 8, & 9 Vocabulary

tentative

- “Jordan and Tom and I got into the front seat of Gatsby's car, Tom pushed the unfamiliar gears tentatively, and we shot off into the oppressive heat, leaving them out of sight behind” (Fitzgerald).
- My plans for the summer are still tentative.

tentative

- adjective
- unsure; uncertain; not definite or positive; hesitant



tumult

- “The prolonged and tumultuous argument that ended by herding us in to that room eludes me....” (Fitzgerald).
- “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” (Fitzgerald).
- The sky was a tumult of discolored clouds right before the tornado.

tumult

- noun
- uproar; disorder; highly distressing agitation of mind or feeling



portentous

- “Before me stretched the portentous, menacing road of a new decade” (Fitzgerald).
- “As Tom took up the receiver the compressed heat exploded into sound and we were listening to the portentous chords of Mendelssohn’s Wedding March from the ballroom below ” (Fitzgerald).
- The report contains numerous portentous references to a future environmental calamity.

portentous

- adjective
- ominous; predictive of future bad events



irreverent

- ““They carried him into my house,”” appended Jordan, ‘because we lived just two doors from the church. And he stayed three weeks, until Daddy told him he had to get out. The day after he left Daddy died.’ After a moment she added as if she might have sounded irreverent, ‘There wasn’t any connection’” (Fitzgerald).
- Purposefully dropping the country’s flag would be an irreverent act.

irreverent

- adjective
- not respectful; critical of what is generally accepted or respected



vicarious

- “At this point Jordan and I tried to go, but Tom and Gatsby insisted with competitive firmness that we remain — as though neither of them had anything to conceal and it would be a privilege to partake vicariously of their emotions” (Fitzgerald).
- The book is full of romance and vicarious thrills.

vicarious

- adjective
- taking the place of another person or thing; acting or serving as a substitute



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rancor

- “Her voice was cold, but the rancor was gone from it” (Fitzgerald).
- The meeting was held to resolve the dispute, but it only fueled their rancor.

rancor

- noun
- resentment or ill will; hatred; malice



formidable

- “As we passed over the dark bridge her wan face fell lazily against my coat’s shoulder and the formidable stroke of thirty died away with the reassuring pressure of her hand” (Fitzgerald).
- She was a formidable opponent.

formidable

- adjective
- of great strength; forceful; powerful



indiscernable

- “In various unrevealed capacities he had come in contact with such people, but always with indiscernible barbed wire between” (Fitzgerald).
- Hidden under vines and moss, the crumbling wall was almost indiscernible.

indiscernible

- adjective
- cannot be seen or perceived clearly; imperceptible



in cahoots

- “I’ve always been glad I said that. It was the only compliment I ever gave him, because I disapproved of him from beginning to end. First he nodded politely, and then his face broke into that radiant and understanding smile, as if we’d been in ecstatic cahoots on that fact all the time” (Fitzgerald).
- He was robbed by a man who was in cahoots with the bartender.

in cahoots

- phrase
- in partnership; in league with; in conspiracy



garrulous

- “I suppose 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...” (Fitzgerald).
- He was so garrulous and could not keep a secret.

garrulous

- adjective
- excessively talkative in a rambling, roundabout manner, especially about trivial matters



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incoherent

- “Presently Tom lifted his head with a jerk and, after staring around the garage with glazed eyes, addressed a mumbled incoherent remark to the policeman” (Fitzgerald).
- Because my aunt suffered a stroke, she is mostly incoherent and unable to express herself well.

incoherent

- adjective
- without explanation; confusing or unclear



forlorn

- “This was a forlorn hope — he was almost sure that Wilson had no friend: there was not enough of him for his wife” (Fitzgerald).
- He pressed his face against the window and managed a forlorn goodbye wave.

forlorn

- adjective
- desolate or dreary; unhappy or miserable, as in feeling condition, or appearance



laden

- “His eyes would drop slowly from the swinging light to the laden table by the wall and then jerk back to the light again and he gave out incessantly his high horrible call” (Fitzgerald).
- Processed foods are often laden with chemicals harmful to the human body.

laden

- adjective
- burdened; loaded down



derange

- “So Wilson was reduced to a man ‘deranged by grief’ in order that the case might remain in its simplest form” (Fitzgerald).
- I was very frightened by the deranged man yielding a weapon.

derange

- verb
- to disturb the condition, action, or function of; to make insane



surmise

- “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” (Fitzgerald).
- We can only surmise what happened.

surmise

- verb
- to think or infer without certain or strong evidence; to guess



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superfluous

- “That request seemed superfluous when I wrote it” (Fitzgerald).
- Eliminate superfluous words from your essays.

superfluous

- adjective
- being more than is sufficient or required; excessive; unnecessary



elocution

- “Practice elocution, poise and how to attain it 5:00-6:00” (Fitzgerald).
- Ellen will need to work on her elocution before she competes in the public speaking competition.

elocution

- noun
- a person's manner of speaking or reading aloud in public



AMERICA

orgastic

- “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—tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther. . .” (Fitzgerald).
- With orgastic shock, I realized that I had just won the lottery and started to jump up and down for joy.

orgastic

- adjective
- at the height of emotional excitement



borne

- “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past” (Fitzgerald).
- As far as he could tell, she had borne it all without breathing a word to anyone else.

borne

- verb
- carried



ceaselessly

- “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past” (Fitzgerald).
- The wounded man moaned ceaselessly.

ceaselessly

- adverb
- without stopping or pausing; unending; incessantly

