

# Monthly Budget for the Fitzgerald Family, 1923

Monthly EXPENDITURE 1923		
		TRIPS, PLEASURE + PARTIES
TAXES---	200.00	
RENT---	300.00	
FOOD---	200.00	
COAL+WOOD	35.00	House Liquor
ICE---	8.50	PLAZA
GAS---	27.00	ALABAMA
LIGHT---	14.50	ATLANTIC CITY
PHONE---	25.00	THEATRE
WATER---	5.00	BARBER
		HAIR DRESSING
		CHARITY
SERVANTS---	295.00	WILD PARTIES
		Taxis
DOCTORS---	42.50	Gambling
DRUG STORE---	32.50	LUNCHES (N.Y)
CLUB---	105.50	SUBWAY (cdf)
		Miscellaneous
NEWSPAPERS---	5.00	
BOOKS---	14.50	
FLOWERS---	9.00	
AUTO---	23.00	
PLUMBER---	13.50	
ELECTRIC---	1.50	
COMUTATION---	4.00	
SCOTT'S CLOTHES	33.00	
Zelda's CLOTHES	100.00	
DADY'S CLOTHES	25.00	
HOUSE HOLD AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES	81.00	
TYPING---	12.00	
	1620.40	
		785.60
		1620.40
		2396.00

from F. Scott Fitzgerald's private papers  
Yes, this is own handwriting (cool, no?)

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# Living the Good Life?

## A Peek into the Fitzgeralds' Pocketbook

For the following questions, compute the answers into today's dollars. Use this figure, based on the online calculator of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:

**\$1.00 in 1923 = \$13.73 today**

1. Get your calculator and figure out how much money, in today's dollars, the couple spent on:

Rent?

House liquor and wild parties?

Food?

Entertainment, not including above?

Servants?

Ice? (Why so much?)

Clothes for Zelda?

Plumber? (Why so much?)

Clothes for F. Scott?

Total monthly expenses?

Clothes for their daughter, Scotty?

Charity?

What percentage of their total expenses went to charity?

2. What word did Fitzgerald misspell? (Take comfort in knowing that even great writers mess up sometimes.)

3. In the space below, write a summary of what you learned about the Fitzgeralds' lifestyle. What sounds good? What sounds bad? What do their purchases say about their priorities? Do you think people today have similar or different priorities? Explain your answers. (So, yes, I'm looking for at least five sentences here. Feel free to continue your answer on the back of this sheet.)

