

The Great Gatsby

Chapters 4–6

by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: antecedents, conceit, counterfeit, euphemisms, incredulously, juxtaposition, meretricious, perishable, ramifications, vestige

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–3 · Nick Carraway arrives in West Egg

Section 2 · Chapters 4–6 · Gatsby's guests and a summer reunion

Section 3 · Chapters 7–9 · The end of Gatsby's summer parties

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com
(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. Curious reporters dug into the senator's **antecedents**.

- A. recent public statements
- B. private business finances
- C. family background and past

2. The whole story is built on a single clever **conceit**.

- A. a fanciful or elaborate idea
- B. a show of personal vanity
- C. a clever deception or trick

3. Her **counterfeit** cheerfulness fooled no one.

- A. fake, meant to deceive
- B. exaggerated and forced
- C. carefully rehearsed

4. The memo was so full of **euphemisms** that no one grasped the real message.

- A. technical jargon terms
- B. vague abbreviations
- C. polite words for blunt ones

5. She stared **incredulously** at the strange headline.

- A. in a bored, distracted way
- B. in a disbelieving way
- C. in a furious, glaring way

6. The **juxtaposition** of the sleek sports car and the crumbling barn was striking.

- A. placing two things side by side
- B. swapping two things suddenly
- C. blending two things into one

7. The casino's **meretricious** glamour wore off after an hour.

- A. showy but cheap and false
- B. loud and overwhelming
- C. dazzling and truly luxurious

8. Strawberries are so **perishable** that they need careful handling.

- A. rare and very valuable
- B. liable to spoil or decay
- C. easily crushed or bruised

9. She didn't foresee the **ramifications** of her decision.

- A. the small details of it
- B. complicated consequences
- C. the hidden reasons for it

10. Not a **vestige** of the old fort remained on the hill.

- A. a faint distant memory
- B. a written public record
- C. a small surviving trace

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

fixed the World's Series — secretly rigged the 1919 baseball championship

bootlegger — a person who illegally made or sold alcohol during Prohibition; an illegal source of wealth

green light — the light on Daisy's dock; symbolizing Gatsby's longing for her

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	B
9	B
10	C

Vocabulary in Context

The Great Gatsby

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “The juxtaposition of these two remarks was startling.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “juxtaposition” most nearly suggests that the two remarks were...

- A. repeated for emphasis
- B. placed directly side by side
- C. separated by a long pause

2 “Gatsby, his hands still in his pockets, was reclining against the mantelpiece in a strained counterfeit of perfect ease, even of boredom.”

In the passage, Gatsby is characterized as...

- A. anxiously faking his composure
- B. genuinely calm and at ease
- C. confident the reunion will go well

3 “... every vestige of embarrassment was gone.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. A little awkwardness still lingers
- B. Their awkwardness has entirely gone
- C. Their awkwardness has grown

4 “The truth was that Jay Gatsby of West Egg, Long Island, sprang from his Platonic conception of himself. He was a son of God ... and he must be about His Father’s business, the service of a vast, vulgar, and meretricious beauty.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “meretricious” most nearly describes the beauty Gatsby serves as...

- A. rare and richly rewarding
- B. grand and truly glorious
- C. flashy but cheap and false

5 “The most grotesque and fantastic conceits haunted him in his bed at night.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the “conceits” that haunted Gatsby were...

- A. calm and soothing thoughts
- B. songs stuck in his head
- C. elaborate flights of fancy

6 “The none too savory ramifications by which Ella Kaye ... sent him to sea in a yacht ...”

The passage most strongly suggests that Ella Kaye’s dealings with Cody were...

- A. a single generous favor
- B. a tangled web of schemes
- C. a brief legal dispute

7 “... exploding those first wild rumors about his antecedents, which weren’t even faintly true.”

According to the passage, the false rumors about Gatsby concerned his...

- A. family background and past
- B. grammar and way of speaking
- C. present business affairs

8 “She was appalled by West Egg, this unprecedented ‘place’ that Broadway had begotten upon a Long Island fishing village – appalled by its raw vigor that chafed under the old euphemisms ...”

The mention of “the old euphemisms” in the excerpt mainly functions to...

- A. set softened speech against bluntness
- B. recall an outdated style of dress
- C. praise West Egg’s refined manners

9 “You can’t repeat the past.” “Can’t repeat the past?” he cried incredulously. “Why of course you can!”

Which choice best describes Gatsby’s attitude when he asks, “Can’t repeat the past?”

- A. disbelief that the past can’t return
- B. wistful amusement at the memory
- C. calm agreement with Nick’s point

10 “He knew that when he kissed this girl, and forever wed his unutterable visions to her perishable breath, his mind would never romp again like the mind of God. ... At his lips’ touch she blossomed for him like a flower and the incarnation was complete.”

The contrast between Gatsby’s boundless dream and Daisy’s “perishable breath” mainly serves to...

- A. show how sweet Daisy’s voice is
- B. suggest Daisy is gravely ill
- C. tie his dream to fading mortal reality

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	A	Character comprehension.
3	B	
4	C	
5	C	Here 'conceit' means a fanciful, elaborate notion, not vanity; the distractor plays on the more familiar 'vanity' sense.
6	B	
7	A	Here 'antecedents' means a person's ancestry and earlier history, not the grammar term students may expect.
8	A	
9	A	Character comprehension.
10	C	Theme comprehension.

Teacher Context: Chapters 4–6

Nick hears Gatsby's account of his past and, through Jordan, learns of the history Gatsby shares with Daisy; Gatsby asks Nick to arrange a reunion with her. The reunion takes place and Gatsby shows Daisy his house, while Nick begins to piece together Gatsby's real origins. The section ends before Chapter 7, where the relationships come to a head.