

The Great Gatsby

Chapters 7–9

by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: commensurate, deficiency, eluded, inexhaustible, magnanimous, precipitately, presumptuous, rancor, transitory, vicariously

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. Her salary was **commensurate** with her years of training and skill.

- A. proportionate or equal to
- B. far greater than
- C. unrelated to

2. The inspector noted a serious **deficiency** in the building's safety plan.

- A. a flaw or shortcoming
- B. a confusing section
- C. a costly mistake

3. The clever fox **eluded** the hunters for three long days.

- A. escaped or evaded
- B. frightened away
- C. tricked and confused

4. The volunteers seemed to have an **inexhaustible** supply of energy.

- A. carefully measured out
- B. steady and dependable
- C. impossible to use up

5. Though he had every reason to gloat, the winner stayed **magnanimous**.

- A. proud and boastful
- B. generous toward a rival
- C. quiet and withdrawn

6. When the fire alarm rang, the crowd rushed **precipitately** toward the doors.

- A. in a loud, noisy way
- B. in a clumsy, stumbling way
- C. in a hasty, headlong way

7. It was **presumptuous** of the new intern to rearrange the boss's office.

- A. careless and thoughtless
- B. secretive and sneaky
- C. boldly overstepping

8. Years after the feud, he still spoke of his cousin with **rancor**.

- A. guarded caution
- B. bitter resentment
- C. cool indifference

9. The joy of the festival was **transitory**, but the memories stayed with us.

- A. lasting only briefly
- B. deep and intense
- C. shared by everyone

10. He followed the climb **vicariously**, cheering from his living room couch.

- A. with envy and longing
- B. indirectly, through another
- C. with calm patience

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

her voice is full of money — Gatsby hears in Daisy's voice the privilege and ease of inherited wealth

careless people — here, Tom and Daisy, whose wealth protects them from the damage they cause and leaves others to suffer the consequences

boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past — metaphor for people striving toward the future while continually pulled backward by the past

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

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

1 “Her voice is full of money, he said suddenly. ... It was full of money – that was the inexhaustible charm that rose and fell in it, the jingle of it, the cymbals’ song of it... high in a white palace the king’s daughter, the golden girl...”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘inexhaustible’ most nearly suggests that Daisy’s charm seems...

- A. tiring to be around
- B. unsteady and fleeting
- C. impossible to use up

2 “There is no confusion like the confusion of a simple mind, and as we drove away Tom was feeling the hot whips of panic. His wife and his mistress, until an hour ago secure and inviolate, were slipping precipitately from his control.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Tom feels his hold on his wife and his mistress is...

- A. collapsing all at once
- B. shaken but still secure
- C. slipping slowly over time

3 “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.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Tom and Gatsby want Nick and Jordan to stay in order to...

- A. step in to settle the dispute
- B. look on as secondhand witnesses
- C. take an active part themselves

4 “Her voice was cold, but the rancor was gone from it.”

Which statement about Daisy’s feelings is best supported by the passage?

- A. Her coldness has finally lifted
- B. Her bitterness has drained away
- C. Her hidden fury is rising

5 “She looked at Tom, alarmed now, but he insisted with magnanimous scorn.”

The ironic phrase ‘magnanimous scorn’ characterizes Tom as...

- A. loftily contemptuous
- B. nervously defensive
- C. genuinely forgiving

6 “I think he realizes that his presumptuous little flirtation is over.”

Tom most likely calls Gatsby’s interest a ‘presumptuous little flirtation’ in order to...

- A. confess his own envy
- B. brand him as overstepping
- C. credit his daring

7 “I see now that this has been a story of the West, after all – Tom and Gatsby, Daisy and Jordan and I, were all Westerners, and perhaps we possessed some deficiency in common which made us subtly unadaptable to Eastern life.”

Nick’s phrase “some deficiency in common which made us subtly unadaptable” suggests the group shared...

- A. a lack that quietly kept them from fitting in
- B. a talent that helped them succeed in the East
- C. a plan to return to the West together

8 “... for a transitory enchanted moment man must have held his breath in the presence of this continent ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that the wonder of first seeing the continent was...

- A. brief and quickly gone
- B. returning again and again
- C. lasting for generations

9 “... face to face for the last time in history with something commensurate to his capacity for wonder.”

In context, the word ‘commensurate’ emphasizes that the new continent was...

- A. unworthy of his wonder
- B. far beyond his wonder
- C. as vast as his wonder

10 “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... and one fine morning – So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.”

According to the passage, the dream that recedes before us has...

- A. been given up for lost
- B. been finally caught
- C. slipped from our grasp

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	The 'tiring' option baits the 'exhaust' root; 'inexhaustible' means incapable of being used up.
2	A	
3	B	
4	B	'Rancor' is the bitter resentment, not the coldness; her voice stays cold while the resentment is gone.
5	A	Character comprehension. 'Magnanimous' literally means generous toward a rival; here it is ironic, as Tom's scorn only mimics generosity.
6	B	Character comprehension. Tom uses 'presumptuous' to put Gatsby back in his place; the overstepping sense carries his contempt.
7	A	Theme comprehension. Nick reframes the story as a Western one; the 'deficiency' names what left the Westerners unfit for Eastern life.
8	A	
9	C	'Commensurate' means equal or proportionate in degree; the distractors offer 'greater' and 'lesser' to test that precision.
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 7–9

The strain among Gatsby, Tom, and Daisy erupts during a sweltering trip into the city, leading to a fatal accident and its aftermath. The novel moves to its tragic conclusion as Nick reflects on what Gatsby represented. Section runs to the end of the novel.