

VOC 1

The Great Gatsby

1. **privy** given knowledge of something private or secret
I was unjustly accused of being a politician, because I was **privy** to the secret griefs of wild, unknown men.
2. **levity** light, gay manner
Frequently I have feigned sleep, preoccupation, or a hostile **levity** when I realized by some unmistakable sign that an intimate revelation was quivering on the horizon.
3. **proximity** close location
My own house was an eye-sore, but it was a small eye-sore, and it had been overlooked, so I had a view of the water, a partial view of my neighbor's lawn, and the consoling **proximity** of millionaires
4. **reproach** blame
His family were enormously wealthy—even in college his freedom with money was a matter for **reproach**.
5. **supercilious** haughty, scornful
Now he was a sturdy, straw haired man of thirty with a rather hard mouth and a **supercilious** manner.
6. **fractious** irritable
His speaking voice, a gruff husky tenor, added to the impression of **fractiousness** he conveyed
7. **deft** skillful
Evidently, it surprised her as much as it did me, for she yawned and with a series of rapid, **deft** movements stood up into the room
8. **wan** unnaturally pale, as if from illness or unhappiness
Her grey sun-strained eyes looked back at me with polite reciprocal curiosity out of a **wan**, charming discontented face.
9. **languid** lacking energy
Slenderly, **languidly**, their hands set lightly on their hips the two young women preceded us out onto a rosied-colored porch open toward the sunset where four candles flickered on the table in the diminished wind.
10. **peremptory** expressive of urgency and authority; commanding
Something was making him nibble at the edge of stale ideas as if his sturdy physical egotism no longer nourished his **peremptory** heart.
11. **contiguous** adjacent, next to
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.
12. **Sumptuous** luxurious, elaborate
It had occurred to me that this shadow of a garage must be a blind and that **sumptuous** and romantic apartments were concealed overhead when the proprietor himself appeared in the door of an office, wiping his hands on a piece of waste.
13. **pastoral** rural
We drove over to Fifth Avenue, so warm and soft, almost **pastoral**, on the summer Sunday afternoon that I wouldn't have been surprised to see a great flock of white sheep turn the corner.
14. **harlequin** multicolored, as in the costume of a clown
On buffet tables, garnished with glistening hors d'oeuvre, spiced baked hams crowded against salads of **harlequin** designs and pastry pigs and turkeys bewitched to a dark gold.