

Words from F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby

Avocabo Word List 3



AMORPHOUS, ANAEMIC,
ARROGANT, CARAVANSARY,
COUNTERFEIT,
ELOCUTION, FLORID,
GARRULOUS, GRAIL,
GROTESQUE,
INCREDULOUS,

INGRATIATE, INNUENDO, MERETRICIOUS,
NOTORIETY, OBSTINATE, PASQUINADE, REDOLENT,
SIMMERING, SUCCULENT, SUPERFICIAL,
TRANSITORY

Exercise 3-1 Fill-in-the-blanks

Complete each sentence from *The Great Gatsby* with the most appropriate word from those that follow. Underline your choice or write it in the space provided. (22 marks)

1. I lived at West Egg, the—well, the less fashionable of the two, though this is a most _____ tag to express the bizarre and not a little sinister contrast between them.

superficial redolent ingratiate transitory

2. This is a valley of ashes—a fantastic farm where ashes grow like wheat into ridges and hills and _____ gardens, where ashes take the forms of houses and chimneys and rising smoke and finally, with a transcendent effort, of men who move dimly and already crumbling through the powdery air.

meretricious garrulous florid grotesque

3. He was a blonde, spiritless man, _____ and faintly handsome.

amorphous incredulous redolent anaemic

4. The bar is in full swing and floating rounds of cocktails permeate the garden outside until the air is alive with chatter and casual _____ and introductions forgotten on the spot and enthusiastic meetings between women who never knew each other's names.

pasquinade notoriety innuendo simmering

5. When he was gone, I turned immediately to Jordan—constrained to assure her of my surprise. I had expected that Mr. Gatsby would be a _____ and corpulent person in his middle years.

florid succulent obstinate counterfeit

6. With an effort I managed to restrain my _____ laughter. The very phrases were worn so threadbare that they evoked no image except that of a turbaned “character” leaking sawdust at every pore as he pursued a tiger through the Bois de Boulogne.

anaemic incredulous florid transitory

7. A _____ hash arrived and Mr. Wolfshiem, forgetting the more sentimental atmosphere of the old Metropole, began to eat with ferocious delicacy.

meretricious pasquinade grill succulent

8. Gatsby, his hands in his pockets, was reclining against the mantelpiece in a strained _____ of perfect ease, even of boredom.

counterfeit innuendo elocution grotesque

9. Americans, while occasionally willing to be serfs, have always been _____ about being peasantry.

garrulous superficial obstinate arrogant

10. It was a random shot, and yet the reporter's instinct was right. Gatsby's _____, spread about by hundreds who had accepted his hospitality and so become authorities upon his past, had increased all summer until it fell just short of being news.

redolence elocution incredulity notoriety

11. The truth was that Jay Gatsby, of West Egg, Long Island, sprang from his Platonic conception of himself. He was a son of God—a phrase which, if it means anything, means just that—and he must be about His Father’s Business, the service of a vast, vulgar and _____ beauty.

meretricious anaemic garrulous caravansary

12. It was a halt, too, in my association with his affairs. For several weeks I didn’t see him or hear his voice on the phone—mostly I was in New York, trotting around with Jordan and trying to _____ myself with her senile aunt—but finally I went over to his house one Sunday afternoon.

counterfeit ingratiating florid grotesque

13. Now he was a sturdy, straw haired man of thirty with a rather hard mouth and a supercilious manner. Two shining, _____ eyes had established dominance over his face and gave him the appearance of always leaning aggressively forward.

redolent anaemic florid arrogant

14. The next day was broiling, almost the last, certainly the warmest, of the summer. As my train emerged from the tunnel into sunlight, only the hot whistles of the National Biscuit Company broke the _____ hush at noon.

succulent simmering amorphous pasquinade

15. A new world, material without being real, where poor ghosts, breathing dreams like air, drifted fortuitously about... like that ashen fantastic figure gliding toward him through the _____ trees.

incredulous counterfeit transitory amorphous

16. When Michaelis’s testimony at the inquest brought to light Wilson’s suspicions of his wife I thought the whole tale would shortly be served up in racy _____ — but Catherine, who might have said anything, didn’t say a word.

simmering pasquinade grail meretriciousness

17. Practice _____, poise and how to attain it.... 5.00-6.00.

simmering anaemia elocution garrulity

18. Its vanished trees, the trees that had made way for Gatsby’s house, had once pandered in whispers to the last and greatest of all human dreams; for a _____ enchanted moment man must have held his breath in the presence of this continent, compelled into an aesthetic contemplation he neither understood nor desired, face to face for the last time in history with something commensurate to his capacity for wonder.

transitory simmering grotesque florid

19. I suppose there’d be a curious crowd around there all day with little boys searching for dark spots in the dust and some _____ man telling over and over what had happened until it became less and less real even to him and he could tell it no longer and Myrtle Wilson’s tragic achievement was forgotten.

arrogant incredulous garrulous succulent

20. He had intended, probably, to take what he could and go—but now he found that he had committed himself to the following of a(n) _____.

innuendo elocution notoriety grail

21. So the whole _____ had fallen in like a house of cards at the disapproval in her eyes.

anaemic caravansary notoriety counterfeit

22. For Daisy was young and her artificial world was _____ of orchids and pleasant, cheerful snobbery and orchestras which set the rhythm of the year, summing up the sadness and suggestiveness of life in new tunes.

redolent florid meretricious succulent

An early draft of Fitzgerald’s novel was entitled *Trimalchio*, after the ostentatious host of parties in Petronius’ satirical play. The allusion lives on in the novel in a comment by Nick.

Exercise 3-2 Synonyms

From three choices, circle the one that is closest in meaning to the bold list word. (22 marks)

1. **grotesque** nightmarish visions
(a) deformed (b) enormous (c) forgotten
2. **anaemic** complexion
(a) flushed (b) yellow (c) sallow
3. enraged by the **innuendoes** in the news article
(a) insinuations (b) facts (c) details glossed over
4. a **florid** architectural style
(a) simple (b) understated (c) ornate
5. **incredulous** stares from the audience
(a) gullible (b) skeptical (c) amazed
6. biting into **succulent** peaches
(a) unripe (b) juicy (c) distasteful
7. **garrulous** passenger on the train
(a) talkative (b) nosy (c) overweight
8. **counterfeit** handbags for sale on the streets
(a) expensive (b) stolen (c) imitation
9. bargaining with the **obstinate** child
(a) stubborn (b) obese (c) naive
10. enjoying the band's **notoriety**
(a) widespread fame (b) ill fame (c) exposure
11. **meretricious** attire at the black tie affair
(a) apt (b) gaudy (c) ill-fitting
12. **redolent of** his mother's cooking
(a) smelling like (b) unlike (c) remindful
13. **superficial** literary analysis
(a) shallow (b) error-prone (c) profound
14. **ingratiate** himself to his English teacher
(a) curry favour (b) introduce (c) humiliate
15. turned off by her **arrogant** manner
(a) lazy (b) supercilious (c) miserly

16. bottle up your **simmering** hostility
(a) boiling (b) waning (c) tacit
17. **amorphous** shapes filled my dreams
(a) spectral (b) shapeless (c) ascending
18. insights from the magazine's **pasquinade**
(a) parody (b) editorial ardor (c) cartoon section
19. his poor **elocution** gave away his real identity
(a) manner of speaking (b) reading (c) posture
20. **transitory** success in the Internet business
(a) elusive (b) fleeting (c) substantial
21. Monty Python and the Holy **Grail**
(a) sneaker (b) chalice (c) game bird
22. open courtyard of the **caravansary**
(a) inn (b) parade (c) plateau

Exercise 3-3: Antonyms

From the three choices, circle the word that is *opposite in meaning* to the bold list word. (10 marks)

1. **amorphous**
(a) unshaped (b) formless (c) defined
2. **anaemic**
(a) ruddy (b) ghastly (c) pale
3. **arrogant**
(a) haughty (b) humble (c) prideful
4. **counterfeit**
(a) sham (b) forged (c) genuine
5. **florid**
(a) austere (b) ornamented (c) embellished
6. **garrulous**
(a) taciturn (b) chatty (c) talkative
7. **incredulous**
(a) unbelieving (b) unquestioning (c) suspicious
8. **meretricious**
(a) plain (b) flashy (c) tawdry

9. *obstinate*

(a) obedient (b) contrary (c) obdurate

10. *superficial*

(a) profound (b) shallow (c) trivial

Exercise 3-4 Making connections.

In one or two sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. Use a good dictionary to clarify unclear words. (30 marks)

- 1. amorphous blob
- 2. contumely arrogance
- 3. bona fide counterfeit
- 4. elocution eloquent
- 5. baroque florid
- 6. flibbertigibbet garrulous
- 7. grotesque gargoyle
- 8. poetaster meretricious
- 9. popularity notoriety
- 10. evanescent transitory

Exercise 3-6 Have you read the book?

With what character, event or setting would you associate each of these list words? Support your answer.

1. *arrogant*

2. *caravansary*

3. *counterfeit*

4. *florid*

5. *garrulous*

6. *grail*

7. *grotesque*

8. *incredulous*

9. *meretricious*

10. *superficial*

Exercise 3-5 Researching Unfamiliar Words

Still unfamiliar with some of this unit's list words? Look them up in a good dictionary. Note the definitions for each word, and determine which parts of speech these words may take. Depending on your dictionary, you may also note the plural forms of nouns, verb inflections, sample sentences, synonyms, antonyms, easily confused words and the etymologies.