

## *The Great Gatsby: Unknown words*

### **fraternal** (adj)

of or like a brother or brothers: fraternal feelings / receive fraternal greetings from fellow trade unionists.

### **mellow** (adj) (-er, -est)

- ▶ (a) fully ripe, or smooth and pleasant in flavor or taste: mellow fruit/wine. (b) (of colour or sound) soft, rich and pleasant: mellow autumn colours / the mellow tones of a viola / mellow stone villages.
- ▶ having become wise and sympathetic through age or experience.
- ▶ (infml) relaxed and cheerful, esp as a result of being slightly drunk: After two glasses of wine I was feeling mellow.
- mellow v to become or make sth/sb mellow: [V] Wine mellows with age. [Vn] Old age had now mellowed her.

### **obstetrics** (n)

[sing v] (medical) the branch of medicine concerned with the birth of children. Compare GYNAECOLOGY.

- ob·stet·ric / @b"stetrIk / adj: obstetric medicine/practice.
- ob·stet·ri·cian / %Qbst@"trISn / n a doctor who specializes in obstetrics.

### **privy** (adj)

[pred] ~ to sth (fml) sharing in the secret of sth: I wasn't privy to the negotiations

### **haughty** (adj)

(-ier, -iest) (of people or their manner) believing or showing the belief that one is superior to others; disdainful (DISDAIN): Her expression was one of haughty contempt.

- haught·ily / -Ili / adv.
- haughti·ness n [U].

### **implore** (v)

to ask or beg for sth in a serious way: [V.speech] 'Help me,' he implored. [Vn] implore sb's forgiveness/mercy [Vn.to inf] They implored her to stay. -> note at ASK.

- im·plor·ing adj: She gave him an imploring look.

### **suppress** (v)

- ▶ to put an end to sth, esp by force: [Vn] suppress an uprising/a revolt / a drug that suppresses muscle spasms. / He was unable to suppress a wry smile.

**throb (v)**

- ▶ (of a part of the body) to feel pain in a series of fast regular beats: [V] His head throbbed (ie He had a bad HEADACHE). / My feet were throbbing after the long walk. [also Vpr].
- ▶ to beat or sound with a strong regular rhythm: [V] a throbbing pain/drumbeat / The ship's engines throbbed quietly. [Vpr] a voice throbbing with emotion / The blood was throbbing in my veins. / Her heart was throbbing with excitement.
- throb n a steady continuous beat: the throb of distant drums / throbs of pain/desire.

**incurable (adj)**

- that cannot be cured: incurable diseases/habits / (fig) He's an incurable romantic.
- in·cur·able n a person with an incurable disease: a home for incurables.
- in·cur·ably / -@bly / adv: be incurably ill/optimistic/stupid.

**intrigue (n)**

- ▶ [U] the making of secret plans to cause sb harm, do sth illegal, etc: a novel of mystery and intrigue.
- ▶ [C] (a) a secret plan to cause sb harm, etc: political/boardroom intrigues. (b) a secret arrangement: amorous intrigues.
- in·tri·guing adj interesting, esp because unusual; fascinating or mysterious: an intriguing fact/question / He found her rather intriguing.
- in·tri·guing·ly adv: Intriguingly, the stranger kept his face hidden.

**jaunty (adj)**

- feeling or showing that one is cheerful and full of confidence: a jaunty tune/rhythm / wear one's hat at a jaunty angle (ie on one side).
- jaun·tily adv: stroll jauntily down the road / 'Spot of bother?' he enquired jauntily.
- jaunti·ness n [U].

**jovial (adj)**

- very cheerful and friendly: in a jovial mood.
- jovi·al·ity / %dZ@Uvi"&l@ti / n [U].
- jo·vi·al·ly / -i@li / adv.

**leverage (n)**

- ▶ the force applied to a lever: Use a longer handle for increased leverage.
- ▶ power; influence: Her wealth gives her enormous leverage in social circles.

**levity (n)**

- [U] (fml) the treatment of a serious matter with humour or lack of respect: The chairman's little joke provided a rare moment of levity in an otherwise dreary meeting.

**malevolent (adj)**

[usually attrib] having or showing a wish to do evil or cause harm to others: a malevolent person/look/smile.

- ma·levo·lence / -@ns / n [U]: an act of sheer malevolence.
- ma·levo·lent·ly adv.

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**quaver (v)**

- ▶ (of a voice or a musical sound) to shake or move slightly off a note, eg because one is nervous: [V] in a quavering voice / His voice quavered with emotion. / Her top notes quavered a little.
- ▶ to say sth in a voice that is not calm or steady: [V.speech] 'Have I passed my test?' he quavered.
- qua·ver n
- ▶ (usu sing) a sound that does not remain steady: You could hear the quaver in her voice.
- ▶ (US eighth note) a note in music that lasts half as long as a CROTCHET.
- qua·very / "kwelv@ri / adj: speak with a quavery voice.

**rivulet (n)**

a small stream: (fig) Rivulets of sweat ran down his face.

**sinister (adj)**

suggesting evil, or that sth bad may happen: a pale, sinister figure lurking in the shadows / a sinister motive/conspiracy / There was something sinister about the man which made me feel uneasy.

**strew (v)**

- ▶ ~ A on/over B; ~ B with A (esp passive) to scatter sth over a surface; to cover a surface with things: [Vnpr] strew papers over the floor/strew the floor with papers / The battlefield was strewn with bodies. [Vnadv] In his room, dirty clothes were strewn everywhere.
- ▶ to lie scattered on or over a surface: [Vn] Papers strewed the floor. / a litter-strewn playground. -> note at SCATTER.

**supercilious (adj)**

(derog) thinking or showing that one thinks one is better than other people: a supercilious person/smile/attitude.

- super·cili·ous·ly adv.
- super·cili·ous·ness n [U].

**tumult (n)**

- ▶ (a) a lot of confused or excited noise, esp of a large mass of people: struggle to be heard above the tumult. (b) a state of confusion, excitement or public disturbance causing such a noise: the tumult of war / The demonstration broke up in tumult.
- ▶ a troubled or confused state of mind: Her mind was in a tumult.
- tu·mul·tu·ous / tju;"mVltSu@s; US tu;- / adj

- ▶ noisy because of the strong feelings involved: tumultuous applause / receive a tumultuous welcome.

**unaffected** (adj)

- ▶ ~ (by sth) not changed or affected by sth: People's rights are unaffected by the new laws. / The children seem unaffected emotionally by their parents' divorce.
- ▶ natural in behaviour or style; not PRETENTIOUS: welcome sb with unaffected pleasure / He was his normal unaffected self.

**chorus** (n) - zbor

- ▶ [CGp] a usually large group of singers; a CHOIR : the Bath Festival Chorus.
- ▶ [C] a part of a song that is sung after each verse, esp by a group of people: Bill sang the verses and everyone joined in the chorus.
- ▶ [C] a thing said or shouted by many people together: a chorus of boos/cheers/laughter / The proposal was greeted with a chorus of approval.
- ▶ [CGp] a group of performers who sing and dance in a musical comedy: a chorus line.
- ▶ [CGp] (in ancient Greek drama) a group of singers and dancers who comment on the events of the play.
- ▶ [C] (esp in Elizabethan drama) an actor who speaks the opening and closing words of a play.

**condescend** (v) -

- ▶ (often derog) to do sth that one clearly thinks is below one's dignity or level of importance: [V.to inf] She actually condescended to say hello to me in the street today. / (ironic) Perhaps your father would condescend to help with the washing-up!
- ▶ ~ to sb (derog) to behave in a kind or polite way, but so as to show that one feels one is better than other people: [Vpr] I do wish he wouldn't condescend to the junior staff in his department.

**diverge** (v) - ločiti

- ▶ ~ (from sth) (a) (of lines, roads, etc) to separate and go in different directions: [Vpr] The coastal road diverges from the freeway just north of Santa Monica. [V] (fig) After that our paths diverged and I never saw her again. (b) (fml) (of opinions, etc) to differ: [V] Our views diverged so greatly that we could never agree on anything. [also Vpr]. Compare CONVERGE.

**echelon** (n) -

- ▶ (often pl) a level of authority or responsibility; a rank in an organization: the higher/upper/top echelons of the Civil Service.
- ▶ a formation of troops, aircraft, ships, etc each behind and to the side of the one in front: aircraft flying in echelon (ie in a line stretching backwards to the left or right).

**elated** (adj) -

- ~ (at/by sth) very happy, excited or proud: an elated smile / She was elated at/by the news.
- elated·ly / iˈleɪtɪdli / adv.
- ela·tion / iˈleɪʃn / n [U] great happiness, excitement or pride: a look of sheer elation / share in the general mood of elation.

**exempt** (adj) - izvzet

[pred] ~ (from sth) free from an obligation, duty or payment; not **LIABLE** :  
exempt from military service / exempt from working overtime / goods exempt  
from tax / In the UK children under 21 are exempt from prescription charges.

- ex·empt v ~ sb/sth (from sth) (fml) to make sb/sth exempt: [Vnpr] His bad eyesight exempted him from military service. [also Vn].
- ex·emp·tion / Ig"zempSn / n [U, C] ~ (from sth): claim/seek tax exemption / exemptions from planning restrictions.

**feign** (v)

to pretend to be affected by sth; to **SIMULATE** sth: [Vn] feign  
sleep/illness/madness/ignorance / feigned innocence.

**flabby** (adj) (-ier, -iest) (derog)

- ▶ (a) soft and loose; not strong or firm: flabby muscles/thighs/features. (b) having soft loose flesh: He's getting fat and flabby because he doesn't have enough exercise. -> note at **FAT**.
- ▶ weak; not powerful or effective: flabby excuses / a flabby argument/plot/speech