CHAPTER ONE:

1. **Levity**  
   **noun**  
   Lightness of manner or speech, especially when inappropriate; frivolity

   “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…”

2. **Scorn**  
   **noun**  
   Contempt or disdain felt toward a person or object considered despicable or unworthy.

   “...Gatsby, who represented everything for which I have an unaffected scorn.”

3. **Abortive**  
   **adj.**  
   Failing to accomplish intended objective fruitless

   “Gatsby turned out all right at the end; it is what preyed on Gatsby, what foul dust floated in the wake of his dreams that temporarily closed out my interest in the abortive sorrows and short-winded elations of men.”

4. **Reproach**  
   **verb**  
   To express disapproval of, criticism of, or disappointment in someone.

   “His family were enormously wealthy – even in college his freedom with money was a matter for reproach...”

5. **Irrecoverable**  
   **adj.**  
   Impossible to recover; irreparable

   “I had no sight into Daisy’s heart, but I felt that Tom would drift on forever seeking, a little wistfully, for the dramatic turbulence of some irrecoverable football game.”

6. **Supercilious**  
   **adj.**  
   Feeling or showing haughty disdain.

   “Now he was a sturdy straw-haired man of thirty with a rather hard mouth and a supercilious manner.”

7. **Fractiousness**  
   **noun**  
   Inclination to make trouble or be unruly.

   “His speaking voice, a gruff husky tenor, added to the impression of fractiousness he conveyed. There was a touch of paternal contempt in it...”

8. **Conscientious**  
   **adj.**  
   Guided by or in accordance with the dictates of conscience; principled

   “The other girl, Daisy, made an attempt to rise – she leaned slightly forward with a conscientious expression – then she laughed, an absurd, charming little laugh, and I laughed too...”
9. Imperceptibly adv. Impossible or difficult to perceive by the mind or senses

“At any rate, Miss Baker’s lips fluttered, she nodded at me almost imperceptibly, and then quickly tipped her head back again...”

10. Accentuate verb To stress or emphasize; intensify

“She was a slender small-breasted girl, with an erect carriage, which she accentuated by throwing her body backward at the shoulders like a young cadet.”

11. Reciprocal adj. Concerning each of two or more persons or things.

“Her gray sun-strained eyes looked back at me with polite reciprocal curiosity out of a wan, charming discontented face.”

12. Languidly adv. Lacking energy or vitality; weak

“Slenderly, languidly, their hands set lightly on their hops, the two young women preceded us out onto a rosy-colored porch, open toward the sunset...”

13. Unobtrusively adv. Not undesirably noticeable or blatant; inconspicuous

“Sometimes she and Miss Baker talked at once, unobtrusively and with a bantering inconsequence that was never quite chatter, that was as cool as their white dresses and their impersonal eyes in the absence of all desire.”

14. Complacency noun A feeling of contentment or self satisfaction, especially when coupled with an unawareness of danger, trouble, or controversy.

“There was something pathetic in his concentration, as if his complacency, more acute than of old, was not enough to him any more.”

15. Extemporizing verb To do or perform (something) without prior preparation or practice

“She was only extemporizing, but a stirring warmth flowed from her, as if her heart was trying to come out to you concealed in one of those breathless, thrilling words.”

16. Feign verb pretend; To give a false impression; to assert as if true

17. Epigraph noun a quotation set at the beginning of a literary work or one of its divisions to suggest its theme

18. Skepticism noun an attitude of doubt or a disposition to incredulity (disbelief)