

CHAPTER 1

When I was a young man, my father told me to always be kind and to respect everyone.

“We shouldn’t **judge** people on whether they are rich or poor,” he said. “Because having a lot of money does not make you a good person.”

That is a very true **fact**.

This is the story of a man – a great man called Mr Gatsby. He was a friend of mine, but the story does not end well.

My name is Nick Carraway. I moved to New York City in the summer of 1922. I had come home from the war, and now everything seemed boring. I came to the city for some **excitement**, and I was not disappointed.

New York was amazing. It was the biggest, most exciting city in the whole world! And it was getting bigger every day. It had everything you could dream of such as cars, fashion, people of every colour and nation, jazz music, and even alcohol although that was illegal in America at this time.

Everybody wanted to be in New York City.

judge (verb) to form an opinion about someone or something

fact (noun) a true piece of information

excitement (noun) the feeling of being excited and very happy



*New York was amazing.
It was the biggest, most exciting city in the whole world!*

I didn't live in the city. I rented a small **cottage** on Long Island. Long Island is next to New York City, and it was where all the rich people lived. They also had apartments in the city, of course, but this was where they had their big houses **next to** the water.

The island had two sections that stuck out in oval shapes. One was called *West Egg*, and the other was called *East Egg* – probably because the oval shapes looked a bit like eggs. If you stood on West Egg, you could see East Egg, and vice versa.

The two places were very different though. East Egg was where people who were born with lots of money lived. They were called *old money*. They thought they were better than everyone else. They also thought that they had more **class**.

West Egg was where people who had made their money recently lived. They were called *new money*, and the old money people did not like them. They thought new money people had no class. Old money was good, upper class people, and new money was bad lower class people; they just had more money.

cottage (noun) a small house in the countryside

next to (preposition) beside; very close to

class (noun) a group of people in a society who have the same economic or social level

My cottage was on West Egg even though I was more old money than new money. I wasn't personally rich, but I wasn't poor either. My family was **wealthy**. In fact, my cousin, Daisy, lived just across the water on East Egg in one of the biggest houses on Long Island. She was married to Tom Buchanan who belonged to one of the richest families in America. I'd gone to university with Tom, and we were friends.

I could see their house from my cottage. There was a green light at the end of their garden that I could easily see. Daisy was very excited when I moved in.

"You must come for dinner," she said.

"I would love to," I said.

Dinner was a formal **occasion**. I wore my smartest clothes. I saw Tom first. He was exercising outside. He was a big, strong man, and **arrogant** too. He'd been a very successful sporting man at university and always seemed a bit sad now as though his best days were over.

"Nick!" he called loudly. "Good to see you! Come inside and see the girls."

wealthy (adjective) very rich

occasion (noun) a special event

arrogant (adjective) behaving in a way that you think you are better than other people

Inside, two women were sitting on a couch. One was small and pretty with a pleasing smile and golden hair. This was Daisy, but I did not know the other woman. She was tall and thin with a short bob of black hair. She did not smile.

“This is Jordan,” said Tom. “She’s a famous golfer.”

“Oh, Nick!” said Daisy, jumping up. “We’re all so happy to see you! It gets so terribly boring around here. You must stay all night!”

I laughed. “I can’t stay too late. I have to go to work in the morning.”

They laughed too. Then the phone rang. It rang and rang.

RING RING! RING RING!

“Well, aren’t you going to answer that!” Daisy shouted at Tom.

Tom walked away angrily, and Daisy followed.

“What was that about?” I asked Jordan.

“Oh, Tom has another woman,” she said. “She keeps calling. Can you imagine anything ruder than calling during dinner?”

GRAMMAR QUIZZES

Quiz-1

Underline *the present perfect or present perfect continuous tenses in these sentences to make them correct.*

1. I have (**swum / been swimming**) for two hours.
Can I stop now?
2. Have you (**been finishing / finished**) your book yet?
3. We have (**drove / been driving**) on this road for an hour.
Are you sure that this is the right way?
4. My sister has (**made / been making**) fifty Christmas cards this week.
5. He has (**jumped / been jumping**) on the trampoline for twenty minutes now.
6. She has (**sewed / been sewing**) her dress all evening to finish it for the party.
7. I have already (**been doing / done**) my homework. Can I play my electronic games now?
8. “I have (**been wrapping / wrapped**) Christmas presents all morning. There are so many,” said mum.
9. We have (**wrote / been writing**) for two hours in the exam.
10. I have (**ate / been eating**) sweets all afternoon, and now I feel sick.
11. The woman has (**been bringing / brought**) her daughter to the theatre for ballet lessons.
12. We have (**been travelling / travelled**) for three weeks across Europe.

Quiz-2

Complete the conversations. Use the words in brackets and *just, already, yet* or *recently*.

1. A Would you like a lemonade?
B No, thanks. I (have / finish / my coffee).
2. A Can I make you breakfast?
B No, thanks. I this morning. (have / eat)
3. A You need to wear your coat.
B I (have not / find / my coat).
4. A Will he be at the exhibition tomorrow?
B No. He (have not / got / his train ticket).
5. A You should make the birthday cake soon.
B I (have / make / the cake).
6. A Has my parcel arrived?
B No. Your parcel (have not / arrive).
7. A Has she been to band practice at all this month?
B Yes. She (have / be / to band practice).
8. A Is Rebecca still waiting for me?
B No. You (have / miss / her).
She left two minutes ago.
9. A Are you going to the party?
B No. They (have not / invite / me).
10. A Have you stayed in that country before?
B No. We (have not / be / to Greece).