

RW question 7

The following text is from F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel *The Great Gatsby*.

[Jay Gatsby] was balancing himself on the dashboard of his car with that resourcefulness of movement that is so peculiarly American—that comes, I suppose, with the absence of lifting work in youth and, even more, with the formless grace of our nervous, sporadic games. This quality was continually breaking through his punctilious manner in the shape of restlessness.

As used in the text, what does the word “quality” most nearly mean?

- A) Characteristic
- B) Standard
- C) Prestige
- D) Accomplishment

Key	A
Domain	Craft and Structure
Skill	Words in Context

Key Explanation: **Choice A** is the best answer. As used in the last sentence of the passage, “quality” refers to a trait or attribute (“characteristic”)—specifically, Jay Gatsby’s “resourcefulness of movement,” which manifested as restlessness.

Distractor Explanations: **Choice B** is incorrect because although Jay Gatsby’s “resourcefulness of movement” is a trait or attribute, referring to it as a “standard” implies that he is meeting a requirement or criterion set by others, a conclusion the passage does not support. **Choices C and D** are incorrect because neither “prestige” nor “accomplishment” makes sense in this context.