Another pause. A waiter knocked and came in with crushed mint and ice but the silence was unbroken¹ by his "Thank you" and the soft closing of the door. This tremendous detail was to be cleared up at last³.

"I told you I went there⁴," said Gatsby.

"I heard you, but I'd like to know when."5

"It was in nineteen-nineteen. I only stayed five months. "That's why I can't really call myself and Oxford man."

Tom glanced around to see if we mirrored his unbelief.⁷ But we were all looking at Gatsby.

"It was an opportunity they gave to some of the officers after the Armistice," he continued. "We could go to any of the universities in England or France." (136)

[1] At this point in the story, Jay Gatsby, Nick Carraway, Jordan Baker, and Daisy and Tom Buchanan are all at a hotel relaxing and Tom is trying to put Gatsby in a bad light in front of the others by questioning him about his past.

Whenever I have a fight with my parents, there is always an awkward silence and I pray for someone to call, or the doorbell to ring or something that can take everyone's mind off the incident, but even when the phone rings I am always disappointed because they ignore it and say they will return the call later. In tense situations, it can be very unnerving when the silence is unable to be broken.

Dad had job offers, and the choices were narrowed down to; Miami, Florida, Newark, New Jersey, Chicago, Illinois, and Los Angeles, California. While we waited, it was very stressful to us to not know where we would be moving, and we couldn't wait until the detail was cleared up and we would know what we were going to be doing.

going to be doing.

[4] "There" refers to The University of Oxford. Tom Buchanan had been thinking that Jay Gatsby had been lying to everyone about his attending Oxford University.

^[5] In the line "I heard you, but I'd like to know when" we see Tom's mistrust and genuine dislike for Gatsby. Throughout the book, Tom disapproves of him all along thinking he is a "Mr. Nobody from Nowhere" (137). Tom continually distrusts Jay, and thinks he is lying by asking Gatsby to keep telling him to tell him of his days at Oxford and not just taking his word for it.

[6] Oxford University is the oldest English-speaking University in the world. It has been around since the eleventh century. The student population of Oxford University numbers over 17,000. Almost a quarter of students are from overseas, and there are more than 130 nationalities are represented at the school.

"Mirrored" commonly refers to the exact same of something, an imitation of an emotion or action.

[8] The term "Armistice" means a ceasing of hostilities as a prelude of peace negotiations. In the context of the First World War, "the Armistice" refers to the agreement between the Germans and the Allies to end the war on November 11, 1918.