**Bonus Unit 1**

**Study the following words:**

**1.      Tenuous (adj.)**

                 weak; flimsy (*e.g. tenuous reason/ plan/ link*)

**2.      Prosaic (adj.)**

                  ordinary; uninteresting; pedestrian *( e.g. prosaic writing style/furniture)*

**3.      Literal (adj.)**

                word for word; verbatim ( *e.g. literal translation*)

**4.      Inspired (adj.)**

                wonderful; impressive; outstanding ( *e.g. inspired poems/ leaders/ guess*)

**5.      Enlightened (adj.)**

                 educated; knowledgeable; informed ( *enlightened readers/managers/action*)

**6.      Mediocre (adj.)**

                not very good; very ordinary (*e.g. mediocre student/ score/ songs*)

**7.      Coherent (adj.)**

                 organized ( *e.g. coherent essay/ speech)*

**8.      Destitution (n.)**

                 poverty; penury; indigence ( *e.g. He died in penury in 1644.)*

**9.      Abysmal (adj.)**

                very bad or of bad quality *( abysmal living conditions/business failure)*

**10.     Innovative (adj.)**

        an innovative idea or way of doing something is new, different, and better than those

        that existed before (*e.g. an innovative approach to language teaching*)

**11.  Cautious (adj.)**

               careful; circumspect *( e.g. cautious driver/ predictions)*

**12.      Credulous (adj.)**

      always believing what you are told, and therefore easily deceived; gullible *(e.g.*

*credulous investors/ buyers/customers)*

**13.     Realist (n.)**

       someone who accepts that things are not always perfect, and deals with problems or

       difficult situations in a practical way *(e.g. She had always  been a realist, not a*

*dreamer.)*

**14.    Pragmatist (n.)**

        someone dealing with problems in a sensible, practical way instead of following a set

        of ideas ( an opposite word is**IDEALIST**)  *( e.g. Strauss' being a pragmatist has kept*

*the company profitable.)*

**15.    Hard-nosed (adj.)**

        you use **hard-nosed** to describe someone who is tough and realistic, and who takes

        decisions on practical grounds rather than emotional ones. *(e.g. a hard-nose*

*businessman/negotiator)*

**Practice**

**For each of Questions 1-4, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices.**

**1.**Men are said to have certain attributes, for example being supposedly more

    aggressive, *----------*, and logical. Other attributes, meanwhile, are allotted to

    women: sensitivity, a nurturing nature, the ability to build consensus, and

    stronger emotions.

  A. tenuous

  B. hard-nosed

  C. pedestrian

  D. mediocre

  E. literal

2. During the troubles of 1750, the *--------- -*of Scotland was terrible; many Scots

     could afford nothing to eat but oatmeal porridge.

       A. anarchy

       B. coherence

      C. punishment

      D. gullibility

      E. destitution

3.  Her first concert appearance was disappointingly perfunctory and derivative

     rather than the (i) ------- performance in the (ii) ------- style we had expected.

**Blank i                                           Blank ii**

         A. inspired                                      D. abysmal                    
         B. prosaic                                         E. cautious  
         C. hard-nosed                                 F. innovative

4. The popularity of pseudoscience and quack medicines in the nineteenth century

     (i) -------  that people were very (ii) -------, but the gullibility of the  public today

     makes citizens of yesterday look like (iii) ------- skeptics.

**Blank i                                           Blank ii                            Blank iii**

        A. denies                                         D. circumspect                  H. pedestrian          
        B. concludes                                   E. enlightened                   G. hard-nosed  
        C. suggests                                     F. credulous                         I. verbatim

**For each of Questions 5- 6, select the two answer choices that when used to complete the sentence blank, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.**

5*. ----------*people have only themselves to blame if they fall for scams repeatedly.

    As the saying goes, “Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on *me*.”

      A. Circumspect

      B. Credulous

     C. Abysmal

     D. Mediocre

     E. Gullible

     F. Cautious

6. The connection between the performance of the stock market and the result of

     the yearly Super Bowl game might seem ---------- at best, but there is evidence

     of some strange correlation between the two.

     A. literal

     B. coherent

     C. tenuous

     D. organized

     E. verbatim

     F. flimsy

**Answer key:** 1. B  2. E  3. A/F   4. C/F/G   5. B/E   6. C/F