**Bonus Unit 5**

**Study the following:**

**1. Acerbic (adj.)**

critical and direct; bitter

*His lyrics are as acerbic and poignant as they ever have been.*

**2. Conceited (adj.)**

If you say that someone is conceited, you are showing your disapproval of the fact that they are far too proud of their abilities or achievements.

*You’re the most conceited, selfish person I’ve ever known*

**3. Defect (n.)**

a fault or a lack of something that means that something or someone is not perfect; deficiency

*A defect in the braking system caused several accidents before the car was recalled.*

**4. Disregard (v.)**

to ignore something or treat it as unimportant

*He ordered the jury to disregard the witness’s last statement*

**5. Emulate (v.)**

if you emulate something or someone, you imitate them because you admire them a great deal

*Sons are traditionally expected to emulate their fathers.*

**6. Finesse (n.)**

Skill to do something

*Dario played the piano with great finesse.*

**7. Genuine (adj.)**

something genuine really is what it seems to be; real

*We need laws that will protect genuine refugees.*

**8. Graft  (n.)**

the practice of obtaining money or advantage by the dishonest use of influence or power

*Stevens was in court yesterday facing charges of graft and tax evasion.*

**9. Hearten (v.)**

 make someone feel happier and more hopeful

*The good news heartened everyone.*

**10. Inhibited (adj.)**

too embarrassed or nervous to do or say what you want

*Many people are inhibited about discussing sexual matters.*

**11. Precipitous (adj.)**

very sudden:

*a precipitous decline in stock prices*

**12. Proclivity (n.)**

a tendency to behave in a particular way, or to like a particular thing - used especially about something bad

*The student has a proclivity to daydream in class.*

**13. Shiftless (adj.)**

lazy and having no interest in working hard or trying to succeed

*She could no longer tolerate her shiftless husband.*

**14. Subservient (adj.)**

always obeying another person and doing everything they want you to do - used when someone seems too weak and powerless

*His wife refused to accept a traditional subservient role.*

**15. Temporal (adj.)**

related to or limited by time

*Our physical bodies are just a temporal, passing reality.*

**START THE TEST**

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

1. James had idolized the professor so much that even after lunching with her

    several times he remained quite ----- in her presence, and as a result, he could not

    really be himself.

A. conceited

B. disregarded

C. heartened

D. relaxed

E. inhibited

2. Although frequent air travelers remain unconvinced, researchers have found

    that, paradoxically, the ----- disorientation inherent in jet lag also may yield

     mental health benefits.

A. temporal

B. acerbic

C. precipitous

D. subservient

E. shiftless

3. However (i) ----- they might be, Roman poets were bound to have some favorite

    earlier author whom they would (ii) -----.

**Blank i                                             Blank ii**

     A. subservient                                    D. disregard

     B. original                                            E. emulate

     C. dishonest                                        F. admire

4. People who seek advice from (i)\_\_\_\_ often find that what they are told can seem

     true, because these seekers of information attribute significance to some

     predictions and ignore others. The mind seeks to make sense of predictions that, in

     themselves, have no (ii)\_\_\_\_ value, and thus it becomes difficult to prove that the

     forecasts are (iii)\_\_\_\_ .

**Blank i                                  Blank ii                    Blank iii**

      A. experts                               D. special                     H. acerbic          
      B. philosophers                      E. genuine                   G. specious  
      C. clairvoyants                     F. legal                           I. shiftless

**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. The poet W.H Auden believed that the greatest poets of his age were almost

     necessarily irresponsible, that the possession of great gifts engender the ....... to

     abuse them.

A. tendency  
B. finesse  
C. graft  
D. proclivity  
E. talent

F. skill

6. Among the many ....... of the project, expense cannot be numbered; the goals of

     the project’s promoters can be achieved with impressive economy.

A. grafts  
B. deficiencies  
C. assumptions  
D. claims  
E. defects

F. tendencies

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