



# WordMasters C H A L L E N G E

Grade 8 – Blue Division  
First Challenge Meet – Word List  
November/December 2016

All of the words listed below will appear in the first **WordMasters Challenge™**, which will be held at your school between November 14 and December 2. (Your teacher will tell you exactly when the Challenge is scheduled for your team.) The **WordMasters Challenge™** is an analogy-solving competition. The contest will challenge you to use the words from your list in logical pairs that will look like this:

**TRUTH : HONEST PERSON :: SHAM : \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. demagogue
- b. minion
- c. nostrum
- d. charlatan
- e. coterie

To succeed in this competition, you will have to understand the exact meanings of all your words, and you will have to reason carefully about the relationships shown in the pairs. In the example above, the correct answer is **(d) charlatan** because an **honest person** offers **truth** in the same way that a **charlatan** offers a **sham** or untruth.

Here are some tips to help you get ready for the **WordMasters Challenge™**:

- After you have learned the meanings of your words, think about possible relationships among them.
  - Which words have similar meanings?
  - Which words have nearly opposite meanings?
  - Remember, some words have more than one meaning.
- Think about some categories into which several words might be grouped.
- Be sure you understand the part of speech of a word (for example, noun, verb or adjective) as it is used in the analogy.
  - Many words on this list (such as “sham”, “rail” and “balk”) can be either a noun or a verb depending upon how they are used.
- Pay special attention to the prefixes and suffixes of words, because they are often clues to meaning and part of speech.
- Try to familiarize yourself with other forms of these words, for example:
  - Not just “seclude”, but also “seclusion”
  - Not just “submit”, but also “submission” and “submissive”
  - Not just “balk”, but also “balky”
  - Not just “viscous”, but also “viscosity”
- Keep this list! Some of these words will also appear in the second and third **WordMasters Challenge™** meets, scheduled for later this school year.

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|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. demagogue | 10. faction    | 19. privation |
| 2. balk      | 11. rail       | 20. seclude   |
| 3. sinuous   | 12. ubiquitous | 21. massive   |
| 4. minion    | 13. girth      | 22. timbre    |
| 5. sham      | 14. bestow     | 23. pilfer    |
| 6. irascible | 15. devious    | 24. redolent  |
| 7. charlatan | 16. coterie    | 25. nostrum   |
| 8. withhold  | 17. submit     |               |
| 9. sonorous  | 18. viscous    |               |