All of the words listed below will appear in the third WordMasters Challenge™, which will be held at your school between April 4th and April 22nd. (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:

DIFFERENCE : SHARP :: CONTRAST : _______________________

a. stilted  
b. sedate  
c. stark  
d. slovenly  
e. avid

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 (c) stark because in the first pair, if there is a sharp difference between two things, they are not very alike. In a similar way, if there is a stark contrast between two things, they are not very alike.

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.
  o Which words have similar meanings?
  o Which words have nearly opposite meanings?
  o 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.
  o Some words on this list (such as “loom”, “reel”, “row”, “drawl”, “fetter”, “revel” and “mire”) 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:
  o Not just “revel”, but also “reveler”
  o Not just “froth”, but also “frothy”
  o Not just “exuberant”, but also “exuberance”
  o Not just “brusque”, but also “brusqueness”

• Good luck!

1. reel  
2. mire  
3. stilted  
4. froth  
5. revel  
6. exuberant  
7. skein  
8. fetter  
9. sedate

10. tier  
11. veer  
12. sedentary  
13. prow  
14. loom  
15. brusque  
16. gait  
17. trudge  
18. slovenly  
19. row  
20. bask  
21. start  
22. dilemma  
23. linger  
24. drawl  
25. terrace