



Dear **WordMasters Challenge™** Team Leader:

Welcome to **WordMasters**! During the next school year, as you prepare for each of the three **WordMasters Challenge™** meets, we hope you and your students:

- Expand your vocabulary,
- Develop verbal reasoning skills, and
- Most importantly, have **fun**!

*"Teachers and children are excited to participate and learn new words.
So glad we have participated! The students are learning!"*
—Crocker Elementary School



On the pages that follow, you'll find **tips and resources** to get your team successfully through the year. You have tremendous **flexibility** in how you build your team and incorporate it into your school. Some schools have the whole class participate while others offer it just to those students expressing interest or those enrolled in an accelerated language arts program. Some teams prepare during their school day while others meet after school or study at home. Find what works best for your students and let the learning begin.

We also have included two flyers you may find useful – an informational sheet you can send home to parents about the **WordMasters Challenge™** program and a student sign-up sheet. These Word documents can be edited and customized for your school.

Wordmasters Basics: 10 Easy Steps

Step 1: Plan Your Calendar

Challenge dates for the current school year are posted on the **WordMasters** website (from the main menu, click the **HOME** tab or the **Challenge Schedule** link in the right-hand column). You'll also receive reminders about important dates and deadlines via email.

Step 2: Practice Analogy Solving

The **WordMasters Challenge™** uses analogies to encourage students to think analytically and understand the relationships between words. Therefore, it's important that students not only practice their vocabulary words but also understand how to solve analogies. **WordMasters** offers **Analogies 101 Plus**, eleven different practice sets that use relatively simple vocabulary to introduce students to the various forms of analogical reasoning. Each **Analogies 101 Plus** packet can be purchased individually through our website for \$10, or you can order a package including all 11 sets for \$110. *Note: All sets are suitable for use in grades 3 through 8; the assortment and difficulty of the analogies are relatively equal across all eleven sets.*

Step 3: Download Meet #1 Word Lists and Distribute to Students

Using your user name (email address) and password (created when you enroll online), you'll have access to the Word Lists for all the teams your school has enrolled. Just click on "Download Materials" from your personal dashboard to download your Word Lists for each Challenge Meet on or after the date listed in the table above.

Step 4: Prepare Students for Challenge Test

The **WordMasters** Study Tools on our website (in "**Teacher Tools**" under the **RESOURCES** tab) include free downloadable games and worksheets to help students learn their **WordMasters** words in fun but effective ways.

Share your ideas too! It just might be the spark someone needs.

Hint: To solve some analogies, students will need to know more than the primary or most common definition of the word.

Step 5: Download Meet #1 Challenge Test

Schedule a 20-minute period during the time frame posted in the Challenge Schedule for your students to take the test.

From your **WordMasters** dashboard, download the Meet #1 Challenge Test and answer key for each team your school has enrolled. Administer and score the tests.

Step 6: Submit Scores Online Prior to Deadline

Select “Submit Scores” from your Dashboard. Enter as many student scores as you would like. Our system will calculate your team score for each meet by summing the ten highest individual scores you submit. ***Please note:** Since results tabulation and reporting are automated, it is imperative that scores be reported by midnight on the posted deadline date in order to be included in the meet results.*

Tip: Create student records anytime prior to the Challenge Meet by clicking on “Manage Teams & Students” in your dashboard to save time during the busy score reporting period.

Step 7: Acknowledge Individual and Team Results

After each meet, top team and individual rankings are posted on the website, along with overall meet statistics.

If a student on your team earns a perfect score for the meet, use the **press release template** under Teacher Tools to publicize your student’s achievement. You can modify the release as you like, and provide it to your local newspaper, your school’s newsletter or website. A perfect score is truly a tremendous accomplishment!

Step 8: Repeat Steps 3-7 for WordMasters Challenge™ Meet #2 and Meet #3

Tip: Each successive meet will be somewhat more difficult than the preceding one. Meet #2 analogies will feature words from both of the first two Word Lists (50 words); Meet #3 analogies will be based on all three Word Lists (75 words). Students should therefore save all their Word Lists and study materials.

Step 6: Celebrate Cumulative Results

Our system will automatically calculate cumulative scores for individuals and teams. Check web postings to see if any of your students qualified for national recognition or if your team ranked among the top ten teams per division.

Step 10: Distribute Team Awards (mailed to you before Meet #3)



For each enrolled team you will receive:

- **1 Champion Medal** to award to your top performer. This may be your highest scorer, your most improved member or the student that worked the hardest--the choice is yours!
- **10 Team Certificates** to present to team members.



Additional medals, certificates and other WordMasters item (such as pencils, pens and highlighters) can be purchased through the WordMasters website if you’d like to recognize additional team members.

Congratulations on a successful year! Enjoy your summer break, but don't forget to...



Re-enroll for the next WordMasters Challenge™

Enrollment for the next year's **WordMasters Challenge™** will open during the spring. Watch for information in our newsletter, on the website and in the mailing we send with your team's champion medal and certificates. **Enroll by September 30th to access Word Lists on October 1st.**



Dear Parents:

This year we will be participating in the **WordMasters Challenge™**. For over 40 years, **WordMasters** has been helping students:

- Expand their vocabulary
- Develop verbal reasoning skills through the use of analogies, and
- Most importantly, have **fun**!

"Thanks for the terrific year! My students discovered the power of words and enjoyed adding so many to their vocabulary! We had a great time!"

—Ames Middle School

The **WordMasters Challenge™** consists of three 20-minute analogy-solving meets held at school throughout the year (December, February and April). Prior to each meet, the students are given a list of 25 challenging vocabulary words that will appear in the Challenge Test analogies. Excellence in the competition will require both a mastery of the word meanings and thoughtful reasoning about the relationships between the words.

Join the Learning!

- Help your child practice their words at home and learn some new words along the way!
- Check out the study tools and suggestions posted on our website under the **RESOURCES** tab by clicking on "**Practice Tools**".

Ask your child's teacher for more information about how their team is preparing for the **WordMasters Challenge™**.

www.wordmasterschallenge.com



WordMasters Challenge™ is a great way to grow your vocabulary, learn how words are related, challenge yourself and have **fun!**

Jamie, 5th grade student

This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It features ten rows of horizontal lines designed to help children learn letter formation. Each row consists of four parallel lines: two outer solid lines defining the height of capital letters, and two inner dashed lines defining the height of lowercase letters. The page is divided into three equal-width vertical columns by thin solid lines, providing space for practicing different types of writing or multiple examples per letter. There are no margins, titles, or other markings on the page.