All of the words listed below will appear in the third WordMasters Challenge™, which will be held at your school between April 8th and April 26th. (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:

**DIVER : PLUNGE :: WHALE : __________**

a. surge  
b. sound  
c. billow  
d. churn  
e. crouch

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 (b) sound because when a diver plunges, she descends deeply into the water; in a similar way, sound is the verb used to describe the action a whale takes when it descends deeply into the water.

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 “shed”, “plot”, “surge”, “smirk”, “plunge”, “billow” and “gurgle”) can be either a noun or a verb depending upon how they are used. “Sound” can be a noun, a verb, or an adjective.
- 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 “erode”, but also “erosion”
  - Not just “impediment”, but also “impede”
  - Not just “smug”, but also “smugness”
  - Not just “billow”, but also “billowy”
  - Not just “plot”, but also “plotter”

1. plot  
2. erode  
3. smug  
4. visor  
5. plummet  
6. gaunt  
7. berth  
8. raze  
9. bloated  
10. gossamer  
11. surge  
12. gurgle  
13. shed  
14. cringe  
15. sheer  
16. impediment  
17. plunge  
18. clenched  
19. smirk  
20. billow  
21. cramped  
22. sound  
23. wring  
24. spacious  
25. niche