All of the words listed below will appear in the second WordMasters Challenge™, which will be held at your school between February 4th and February 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:

**HOPE : WILTS :: EXCITEMENT : ____________**

a. toils  
b. fades  
c. thrives  
d. advances  
e. grips

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) fades because when **hope wilts**, it *dies down*; in a similar way, when **excitement fades**, it *dies down*.

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 “hedge”, “advance”, “grip”, “retreat” and “ruin”) can be either a noun or a verb depending upon how they are used. “Dim” can be a verb or an adjective. “Antique” can be an adjective or a noun.
- 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 “elderly”, but also “elder”  
  - Not just “isolate”, but also “isolation”  
  - Not just “youth”, but also “youthful”  
  - Not just “congested”, but also “congestion”
- Keep this list! Some of these words will also appear in the third WordMasters Challenge™ meet, scheduled for later this school year.

1. twig  
2. lag  
3. dreary  
4. chunk  
5. fade  
6. slender  
7. boulder  
8. retreat  
9. elderly  
10. hedge  
11. advance  
12. brittle  
13. youth  
14. isolate  
15. antique  
16. wilderness  
17. dim  
18. congested  
19. plumage  
20. grip  
21. parched  
22. ruin  
23. wilt  
24. flimsy  
25. morsel