

{a b d e f h i k l o t u}

Letters in Good Standing “Uncle Bob”

In August of 2022 we introduced a word challenge involving so-called [Low-Profile letters](#). This is a subset of the lower case alphabet, including c, e, and m, that neither stick their heads up like b, k, and t — what we will call Letters in Good Standing — nor drag their feet below the line as g, j, and p do. We challenged you back then to make common words out of the low-profile set. We now issue a similar challenge using the “talls.”

Details: The “talls” have no vowels amongst them, so we will throw the five common ones into the pool, kicking and splashing, in order to make words possible. The full set of Letters in Good Standing is ...

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We ask that you construct uncapitalized English words that have no hyphens or apostrophes. To keep the task more challenging, we ban the use of -ed as an inflected form. For example, “ladled” has the root word ladle which would count as a five-letter word. On the other hand the word “bleed,” though ending in -ed is not banned.

The Challenges: You will find somewhat helpful suggestions below, and Uncle Bob’s solutions after those.

1. Warmups: Can you construct eight 5-letter words and seven 6-letter words of good standing?
2. Wind Sprints: Can you construct six 7-letter words and five 8-letter words?
3. Cross-training: Can you construct four 9-letter words and three 10-letter words?
4. For the Gold: Can you construct any 11- and 12-letter words in good standing?

Hints: I found -le to be a useful word ending; are there others? Pedestrians should have no trouble in eight letters. Double letters and compound words will pad your letter and word counts.

Spoiler alert! Solutions follow on page 2.



Solutions

1. Five letters. tooth, teeth, filth, fifth, tilde, fluff, khaki, fable, label, haiku, libel, doubt, dealt, outdo, blood, among others.

Six letters. battle, fitful, defile, behold, duffle, toffee, hobble, foible, liable, toodle, bookie, toddle, toilet, kibble, ballot, ballet, and others.

2. Seven letters. leaflet, beadlet, toolkit, booklet, feedlot, lookout, holdout, baleful, doleful, offload, offbeat, doublet, lobelia, affable, and others.

Eight letters. leadfoot, boothook, boathook, tailhook, lifelike, foothold, football, footfall, foothill, deathbed, faithful, bloodlet, doubtful, flatfoot, fallible, and others.

3. Nine letters. outbattle, bloodbath, affiliate, debatable.

Ten letters. doubletalk, doubletake, bubblebath, bobblehead, habilitate, doubletime, debilitate.

4. Eleven letters. battlefield.

Twelve letters. [we are waiting to hear from you.]

If you have other longish words in good standing, we would love to hear from you. NB. Some of Uncle Bob's words were found only in the urban dictionary online, but hey, U R not gonna be a complainer or something R U?