

Words on Target #8

Final Throws

“Uncle Bob”

Back in February 2021 we introduced a game that involved creating and scoring five-letter words based on values of their individual letters. Those values were A = 1, B = 2, on up to Z = 26. The picture shows the values of three words: CACHE 20, CABAL 19, and TEASE 50. In our game we use neither darts nor the bull’s-eye.



You’re welcome to look back and read how the game is played in that [February puzzle](#). Since then we’ve been throwing out challenges for you to come up with words that meet certain marks.

In the solutions of Words on Target #6 I suggested the strategy of finding a word or words close to your target, altering one or two letters, and then re-anagramming if necessary. For instance, aiming for 27 points I found BALED at 24. Replacing D with G makes 27, and then BALEG anagrams to BAGEL. Pure fun with words.

Here are the last of those challenges. On the Word Puzzles page you’ll find a handy downloadable scoring calculator in two formats to assist you.

Type 1. High scoring single words like RUSTY at 103 points. Find words worth totals of 96, 100, and 104 points each.

Type 2. Mid-range scoring pairs. For example, the words STEAM (58) and RIGHT (62) score a total of 120 points. Find pairs of words reaching totals of 116, 121, and 126 points.

Type 3. Low scoring triplets. Find sets three words reaching scores of 72, 69, and 66 points

Below is a chart of all the letter values. I’ll put my solutions (when I find them) on the next page. Happy hunting!

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

Uncle Bob's Solutions

1. PUTTS, 96; BUZZY, 100; RUTTY 104. Did you find others?

2. I began with a small bank: RAINS (61) PAINS (59), TRAIN (62), VANES (61). I needed to adjust slightly up and down from those. I tried PAILS (57), TRAIL (60), WANES (62), WINES (70), WIPES (72), PANES (55), OPERA (55), WAGER (54).

OPERA and VANES total 116.

PAINS and TRAIN total 121.

WAGER and WIPES made 126.

3. We had CACHE (20) AND CABAL (19) in our examples. Other low scorers are HEDGE (29), BIBLE (30), CADRE (31), BLADE (24), CEDED (21), ABACK (18).

CABAL, HEDGE, and BLADE total 72

CABAL, HEDGE, and CEDED total 69

CACHE, BIBLE, and our low, low champ ABACI (the plural of abacus) total 66.

So our lowest triple is CACHE, CABAL, and ABACI at 55 points. Can you beat it?

Please send us your findings.